

SLOOP OF WAR "JOHN ADAMS" AT FEJEE ISLANDS.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

*The report of Captain Boutwell, relative to the operations of the sloop of war "John Adams" at the Fejee islands.*

JUNE 25, 1856.—Ordered to be printed.

*To the House of Representatives:*

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the eighteenth of February last, requesting me to communicate to the House, "the report of Captain E. B. Boutwell, and all the documents accompanying it, relative to the operations of the United States sloop of war John Adams, under his command, at the Fejee islands, in the year 1855," I transmit herewith a report of the Secretary of the Navy.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, June 13, 1856.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
June 11, 1856.

SIR: In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives, dated February 18, 1856, requesting the President of the United States to communicate to the House the "report of Captain E. B. Boutwell, and all the documents accompanying it, relative to the operations of the United States sloop of war John Adams, under his command, at the Fejee islands, in the year 1855," I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the papers referred to.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

J. C. DOBBIN.

The PRESIDENT.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Valparaiso, December 22, 1855.*

SIR: In compliance with your order, the U. S. ship John Adams, under my command, sailed from Payta June 20, 1855, for Panama, and arrived at the latter place on the 28th of the same month. On my arrival at Panama, I found that some difficulty had taken place at the island of Taboga, (the depot of the American Steam Company,) and that a man had been murdered, and the murderers lynched.

The inhabitants of Panama had become so excited, that it was understood they proposed to place themselves under the protection of the French consul. These events transpiring, and others of greater importance being daily expected, I remained at Taboga and Panama until the 16th of July, and I flatter myself that the presence of the John Adams added materially to the restoration of order and good feeling towards our countrymen. On the 16th of July I sailed from Panama, and on the 20th of the same month made the small island of Malpello, in the gulf of Panama, and found it to be in longitude  $81^{\circ} 32'$  west—70 miles out of position, as laid down in Nore's chart. On the 1st day of August, passed in sight of two of the Gallapagos islands, and on the 29th of the same month arrived at Apia, in Upolu, one of the Somoa islands. I called in at Apia for the double purpose of watering ship and getting Wilkes's charts of the Fejee islands and harbors, they not having been furnished to this ship, except one general chart, on a very small scale, and unsafe to run by. On my arrival at Apia, Mr. Pritchard, the English consul, several English subjects, some of the Americans now at that place, and the principal chiefs in and around Apia, waited on me, and preferred complaints against our consul, Mr. Van Camp. Many of the most important witnesses in the several cases having left the place previous to my arrival, and, further, hearing that the matter, in most of them, had been referred to the American and English governments, I declined to embarrass them by making any decision on the subject.

These islands are under no sort of government; there is no law except club law, but, judging from the appearance and deportment of the natives, that is rarely resorted to by them. The American commercial agent is connected with others in trade, and being anxious to make money rapidly, I should judge, must give offence to others in the same business; and being so far removed from his government, without the power of applying to it often for instructions, and there being no law on the island to govern him, has made decisions in cases, it is believed, that are harsh to Americans as well as foreigners. Copies of the papers in relation to the difficulties at Apia are herewith enclosed, and marked A, B, C, and D. On the 3d of September I left Apia, and arrived at Lanthala roads, island of Viti Levu, Fejee islands, on the 12th of the same month, the headquarters of Mr. Williams, United States commercial agent. On the 13th of September I despatched an armed boat up the river, as far as the town of Rewa, for John B. Williams, United States commercial agent; and learning that he had left for Ovalan, I despatched a second boat to Lavaka, Ovalan, and on the 16th he arrived on board this ship. During my stay, I employed the master in examining the harbor, the



different entrances to it, and the river up as far as Rewa, with the view to placing on the chart all shoals heretofore unknown. On the arrival of the United States consul on board this ship, I learned from him, and Mr. Moore, of the English mission, that the late chief or king of Rewa died some weeks previous to my arrival, under the following circumstances: He had been ill for some time with the dysentery, and on Mr. Moore's return from a visit to the chiefs of Ban, he applied to and obtained from Mr. Moore some medicine, and in a few days after died. The two chiefs being at war, and Mr. Moore having interfered to bring about a peace, the natives of Rewa believed that the medicine had killed their chief, and out of revenge burned the houses of the missionary and our consul, with all the property in the consul's house. On learning these facts, I determined to make the natives build our consul another house, pay the value of twelve hundred dollars in pigs, gum, and fish, for the loss of his property, and reinstate Mr. Williams in possession of his land—the two small islands of Kankulan and Lanthala—which he had purchased and had deeds for. I examined the interpreter, who had made the purchase for the consul, and his deeds decided that the land belonged to our consul, but was informed by Mr. Moore that the chiefs of Rewa and Vutia disputed the claim of Mr. Williams and Mr. Handy (an American) to this land. On the 18th of September I had an interview with the chiefs of Rewa, on board, who acknowledged that the land had been sold to Mr. Williams; and on the 19th I had an interview with the chiefs of Vutia, who not only consented to Mr. Williams's claim, but countersigned the deeds. On the same day Mr. Moore, the English missionary, visited me, and stated that he wished to interfere in the matter; that it was a case of conscience with him, and he objected to Mr. Williams's claim to the island of Lanthala. I asked him what business it was of his; what right he had to object to an American getting justice, and being put in possession of his property? and reminded him of the fact that had just come to my knowledge, of the intention of Captain Denham, of H. B. M.'s ship "Herald," (a few weeks previous to my arrival,) to take possession of the Fejee islands, and was only prevented from doing so by a French missionary, who was present at the interview between Captain Denham and Tui Viti, (king of Fejee,) and who informed Captain Denham that the English missionary had misunderstood the chief. The chief Tui Viti, who had been guilty of many acts of cruelty to Americans and Frenchmen, and the robber of their property, wished to place himself under the protection of England, but did not wish to give them the islands. Captain Denham replied that his government did not do things in that way; and putting the papers aside, said the matter must stand over for the present. Mr. Moore, the English missionary, in reply to my remarks, stated that he had heard something of the kind, but the facts were not as I had heard them; but as a missionary he was bound to protect these people (the natives). I replied, that I should obtain what I considered the rights of my countrymen, and justice for them, as far as I was able, in spite of all missionaries, a portion of whom appeared to be disposed to interfere to prevent it.

By Commander Magruder's letter, (a copy of which is herewith enclosed, and marked No. 8,) he appointed the Rev. J. Calvert, an English missionary, and one American, to decide upon and settle American claims, when last here. The American refusing to serve, nothing was obtained from the natives. In connexion with this subject, I think it proper to state, that by some arrangement of the parties, or influence of the English, there are no American missionaries at these islands; and if it is necessary to send American missionaries abroad, I think, for the interest of American commerce and republican institutions, as well as religion, they should be sent to these islands.

On my arrival at Ovalan, the 26th of September, the English ship "Herald," Captain Denham, immediately got under way and proceeded to sea without communicating with me; and on being visited by the captain of a French store-ship at anchor in the harbor, I learned that Captain Denham, of the Herald, is daily expecting the frigate "Juno," Captain Maitland, from Sydney, to take possession of the Fejee islands.

The day after my arrival at Lavaka, I despatched an officer of this ship and Mr. Williams, our commercial agent, to the small island of Ban, with a letter from me, (a copy of which is herewith enclosed, and marked No. 10,) making a demand on the chiefs of that island for payment for American property destroyed by them, or by the order of the so-called king of Fejee, Tui Viti. Tui Viti being absent from Ban, fighting in conjunction with the king of the Tonga islands, subduing the Fejee islands to windward of this, the officer effected nothing; and the authorities in Ban promising to send for their king, I determined to wait a reasonable time for him to return, and in the mean time investigate the conduct of the Tui Levuka, who permitted his people to rob the Tim Pickering, an American vessel, cast away on the island of Ovalan some time since; but as he proved that the chief of Ban, Tui Viti, robbed the vessel of many muskets and a quantity of powder, &c., I compelled Tui Levuka to pay but twelve hundred dollars for the property his people stole, and three hundred for not punishing a native who committed a rape a few months since on the daughter of an American resident of the place, and allowed the chief ten months to pay the fine in.

The messenger who was sent to the island of Cantab to demand payment for the robbery of some American property, returned on the 1st of October, with the information that the natives said they would not pay, as they had the missionaries to protect them.

In the bay of Suva, some few years back, two Americans, Shattuck of New Hampshire, and McComby, were taken from a small island in the bay, and beaten nearly to death, and carried to the mountains for the purpose of being eaten; and but for the quarrel between two towns, about the property which the natives carried off, they would have been roasted. They were at work getting *beche de mer* for Wilkinson & Co., American citizens, and Tui Viti, of Ban, wished to put a stop to the fishing, and sent a messenger to kill them and take their property. Being satisfied that Tui Viti, of all others, was the most guilty and the greatest robber, and believing that many of the missionaries wish to screen him from just punishment, I caused a

messenger to be sent from this place on the 1st October, to bring him home, in order that I might settle matters with him. On the 11th October (the day the "St. Mary's" sailed) I appointed two officers of this ship to take evidence in the several cases of American citizens having claims against the Fejee islands, and on the 12th the Rev. Mr. Binner appeared on board with the Rev. Mr. Waterhouse, and they were notified that they would be permitted to be present at the investigation daily, and also to act as counsel to the chief of Ban, Tui Viti, when he thought proper to appear in person, if they so desired. On the 20th October I despatched two armed boats, under the charge of Lieut. Lambert and Passed Midshipman Baker and Mr. Williams, to Ban, to meet Tui Viti, who was hourly expected to return from his expedition to the Windward islands. They succeeded in bringing him on board the ship, where he arrived on the 22d of the same month, and was permitted to make his defence through the Rev. J. Waterhouse and Binner. The officers whom I appointed to investigate the claims were of opinion that Tui Viti should be held responsible for the losses the Americans have sustained, and discovering no other way myself than to permit him to remain in power, and binding him by the strongest instrument of writing that I could draw up, I permitted him to return to his home and power, after reading him a lecture which I hope he will not soon forget. If, however, he should not meet the payments, he has signed a paper to give place to one who will. The English missionaries stated to me that he had embraced Christianity recently, and since that change he had somewhat improved, and this was another reason which induced me to give Tui Viti one more trial.

Finding the eyes of one or two of the topmast rigging gone, and the ship requiring caulking, I took advantage of my stay at Ovalan, whilst investigating the claims on Fejee, to overhaul the rigging and caulk the ship outside. On the 26th of October I sent the launch, Acting Master Badger and twelve men, with Mr. Williams, to Lanthala, the headquarters of the consulate, to render him all the assistance possible in quieting the people of Vutia, (his neighbors,) and who are a complete set of robbers and murderers. On the morning of the 27th I got under way, and in the evening anchored in Suva bay, island of Viti Levu. In the evening of the 28th I sent an armed party, under the command of Lieutenant Shattuck, first lieutenant of the ship, assisted by Passed Midshipman Eggleston, to demand the chief of Lassa-lassa, who had beaten nearly to death two Americans, stolen a large amount of American property, and more recently murdered an Englishman. The chief escaping, they burnt the town of Pamula, and returned to the ship without the loss of a man. On the same day the launch returned from Rewa, and Acting Master Badger reported to me that two natives of Vutia stated to Mr. Williams, our commercial agent, in his presence, that as soon as the ship left they would murder Mr. Williams and take his property. I immediately directed Mr. Badger to return in the launch, having the field-piece in her, eighteen men well armed, assisted by Passed Midshipman Baker, the gunner, and Mr. Williams, to demand the two natives, and if they were not given up, to lay the town in ashes, and return to the ship.

On the afternoon of the 29th the launch returned, after burning the town of Vutia, they failing to give up the two men who threatened to take the life of the United States commercial agent. One of these men had previously been engaged in murdering a Scotchman.

On the 30th I despatched two expeditions, one to the town of Lassa-lassa, to demand the chiefs who had committed murder and robbed the American property on the island of Namaka. They had put their town in a state of defence, and having some muskets, one of my men was wounded in the affair. The town was burnt, and the natives driven into the bushes. The other expedition composed of fifty-two officers and men, in the launch and first cutter, who, under the charge of Lieutenant Sartori, went to a town up the river Indinibe to a shoal for the ship to proceed up, to endeavor to get the chief to come off to the ship. These people are cannibals, and have robbed and murdered Americans, and others. On arriving at the town, a messenger was sent to the chief to appear and speak to the officer; but instead of doing so, the natives beat the drum for war, and fired some musket balls at the boats. The officer in command immediately took the town, and finding a large quantity of American property in the chief's house, (some of which was recognised by an American citizen who had been robbed by these people, and who went as a guide,) burnt it. The party re-embarking and returning down the river, passed a second town and was fired into from it. This town was also taken and burnt. A third town was passed, and receiving no fire from it, and perceiving no one in the town, it was spared. But, unfortunately, on arriving at or near the mouth of the river, from the bushes a volley of muskets was discharged at the first cutter, and one man killed, and a corporal of marines slightly wounded. The fire was immediately returned, and the party on shore silenced. Humanity on our part, I may say, cost us a man on this occasion, for the launch, having the beautiful and effective brass piece on board of her, could have cleared the bushes on both banks of the river, and with grape-shot killed all secreted therein. But the officer in charge knowing my wish to get the chief on board, and not to destroy life if possible to avoid it, carried out my orders, believing, as I did, that the natives had but few muskets. I was aware that they had received muskets and powder from Sydney as well as our own country; but I believed up to this time that the white men who would put fire-arms into the hands of the natives, to kill men of their own color, would be dishonest enough to cheat them by imposing upon them bad muskets and bad powder.

On the 31st Dider, an American residing at Tonga, an interior town, and who was robbed of all his property some time since, by the natives, came on board the "John Adams" and reported to me that on hearing of the burning of Vutia, the people of his town paid him the full value of his property, and requested him not to complain of them to the commander of the man-of-war.

On the 1st November, the friends and relatives of the chief I took on board for robbing John Spear, an American Indian, and a citizen of the United States, paid up the amount, and the chief was released.

On the 4th November I sailed from Suva, and on the 6th anchored in the harbor of Lathala, island of Kantava, and demanded of the

chiefs of Soso and Angolan the property taken from Charles Rounds, an American, and John Sullivan, which was immediately paid. One of the chiefs visited the ship and declared his intention of becoming a Christian, and promised not to permit his people to rob any white man in future.

The harbor of Lathaba is one of the most beautiful in the world; and as I had not a survey of it, I caused as much to be done in that way as my limited stay at Kantava would permit. Having accomplished the object of my visit to the Fejee islands, to the best of my judgment and ability, and my provisions being short, I took leave of Kantava and the Fejee islands on the 8th November last for Valparaiso.

The following is a summary of what the "John Adams," under my command, has accomplished at the Fejee islands:

I made the people of Rewa build Mr. Williams a new house, and pay twelve hundred dollars for the property destroyed in the house. (\$1,200.)

I made them reinstate him in his land. I made Tui Levuka sign a treaty to pay for the property taken from the American brig "Tim Pickering," (\$1,200,) and three hundred dollars to an American girl for ill-treatment received from a native, (\$300.)

I made a treaty with Tui Viti, king of Fejee, to have paid in twelve, eighteen, and twenty-four months, with interest, for property taken from American citizens, \$45,000.

And if England or France take possession of the islands within the time, he (Tui Viti) is to insist upon the payment of the claims by the nation taking possession.

I demanded satisfaction of the chief and people of Vutia for threatening the life of the American consul, and attempting to murder a man in his employ. After burning the town I obtained it.

I demanded satisfaction of the chiefs Te Sulear and Koroduadua for beating nearly to death two Americans, and taking their property. They refusing to come on board the ship, and at one place firing at my boats, compelled me to burn four of their towns.

I made the natives pay John Dyer \$400; John Sparr, \$300; Charles Rounds, \$200; John Sullivan, \$300; Mr. Williams, (for stock,) \$100.

The Fejee islands, from their position, proximity to Australia, &c., would be of as much importance to England (as an acquisition) as Cuba would be to the United States. Now, as near as I have been able to ascertain the facts, I will state how it was proposed to get possession of them, and how Mr. Calvert and Captain Denham proposed to deal with American claims. In the month of July last, H. B. M.'s ship "Herald," Captain Denham, arrived at Ovalan, and after arranging matters with Mr. Calvert, the captain invited the Americans and others who had claims against Fejee, on board of his ship. Arriving on board, they were requested to sign a paper to the effect that they would make no further claim on Tui Viti or the Fejee islands. Some few signed; others refused. The captain and the Rev. James Calvert then appointed a day to receive Tui Viti and George (the king of the Tonga islands) on board. On the 25th July, two discharges of cannon announced the arrival on board the "Herald"



of the two kings; the Rev. James Calvert having previously prepared Tui Viti for the occasion, and obtained his consent, as Captain Denham was led to believe, to cede all Fejee to England. Captain Denham being a prudent man, and remembering the existing alliance between England and France, and knowing the fact that the French have no consul at these islands, sent his boat for the French missionaries to go on board and witness the deed of cession and the ceremony of taking possession of Ovalan. It is further stated that the Rev. James Calvert remarked to Captain Denham, "What did you send for those men for? they will make a muss of it," &c. They did in truth make a muss of it; for the Frenchmen understood the Fejee language better than the Englishman, or else Tui Viti (who is a great rogue) was playing them a trick, as it all ended in empty words, and both the Rev. James Calvert and Captain Denham missed the honors their grateful country were prepared to bestow on them for the requisition of these important islands to England. The climate of the Fejee islands is temperate and healthy. The soil is good, producing yams, tarra and cocoanuts in great abundance. Oil is made from the cocoanut and exported to England and France. Timber suitable for spars and for ships grows on Viti Levu and other islands, and the Tongans from the Friendly islands get all the timber that they build their canoes out of, from these islands. In season, the fruits of the tropics are very abundant, and grain might be cultivated extensively, and corn is now, to a limited extent. Gum is also exported to the United States. The waters of these islands furnish tortoise-shell, and large quantities of beche de mer, which is shipped in American vessels to China. The whaling in the group is principally done by American vessels; but if these islands be ceded to England, she will establish some regulation, placing her own and foreign vessels on a different footing.

In closing my report of a cruise to the Fejee islands, I feel that I would be doing injustice to the officers and crew under my command were I not to bear testimony of their general good conduct. The cruise has been an arduous and dangerous one, and under all and every circumstance they have conducted themselves in such a manner as to command my approbation, and merit that of their government. The arduous and important duties performed by Lieutenant B. F. Shattuck, added to his services in Mexico, have nearly ended his career in the navy. The services of Acting Master Badger, as a surveyor and leader of one of the expeditions against the Fejeeans, meet my approbation. Lieutenant Sartori, Passed Midshipmen Eggleston and Baker, Gunner Hatch, and all the officers and men who composed the force despatched against the Fejee towns, deserve my warmest approbation; and it should not be forgotten that volunteers were found among that class of officers on board whose duties did not require them to risk their lives or health in this service, and who on all occasions behaved in such a manner as to do them credit.

I rejoice to say that in all these expeditions there was but one man killed and two wounded. Charles Lockwood was killed and Corporal Johnson wounded on the expedition up the Indinibe river, and Charles Beck at the burning of the town of Lassa-lassa.

Accompanying this report are letters and other papers relating to



the Fejee affairs. I arrived here on the 21st of December, after a passage of forty-three days.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
Commander.

Commodore WM. MERVINE,  
Commanding U. S. Naval Forces in Pacific ocean.

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A No. 1.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lanthala Roads, September 16, 1855.*

I, Charles Pickering, do hereby despose, that I acted as interpreter for John B. Williams, esq., United States commercial agent at the Fejee islands, in the purchase of a quantity of land from the chief of Rewa, including the island of Lanthala, and that the proposition to dispose of the land was made by the chief and not solicited by the United States consul, and that the sale took place in good faith; and further, that it is the right and custom for the chiefs to dispose of the land on these islands.

CHARLES PICKERING.

Witness:

W. E. FITZHUGH.

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No. 1.

REWA, *September 7, 1855.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you of my arrival here from New York on the 10th ultimo. During my absence my premises at headquarters of this agency were destroyed by the natives, which causes me to remain at Tetonga, Ovalan, for the present.

I would be glad if you would inform me of your arrival, and I will immediately come to you at Lanthala, Rewa.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and  
U. S. Commercial Agent at Fejee islands.

Captain ———,  
*United States ship of war ———.*

## No. 2.

UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL AGENCY,  
*Lenthala, Rewa, Fejee Islands, December 6, 1852.*

*To the Captain of the first U. S. vessel of war arriving at the Fejee islands:*

SIR: I have the honor herewith to enclose a copy of a letter handed to me by James Magown, of Salem, Massachusetts, at present residing at Lavaka, with the request to hand it to the first American ship of war arriving at these islands; and it appears that the clause wherein it says "very good *pay*, with fire," was a threat made by Thakombar, the so called Tui Viti, to burn his (Magown's) house and property on account of being employed as trading-master on board the barque "John H. Milly," of Boston, whereof William H. Crandell is master, carrying on a legal trade in these islands for beche de mer and shell, and sailing in accordance with the laws of the United States.

This is one of the many threats put forth by the said chief detrimental to the commerce from the United States trading in this group of islands. If no proper notice is taken of such threats, it will sooner or later lead to something very serious. Must the wheels of commerce at these islands be clogged and pay a tribute to the cannibal? for it amounts to nothing else.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,

*U. S. Commercial Agent, Fejee islands, at present  
 on board the barque "John H. Milly."*

P. S.—The threat was made to Magown's wife in his own house.

J. B. WILLIAMS.

## No. 3.

REWA, *September 18, 1855.*

SIR: I, Charles Rounds, was robbed at Nacera, Radava, by the natives, on the 18th of January, 1855, of the following articles:

4 screens.....	£50 0 0
1 pair of pistols.....	8 0 0
2½ pigs of lead.....	20 0 0
1 pot.....	3 0 0
1 frying-pan.....	1 0 0
1 camp-oven.....	3 0 0
3 pair of blankets.....	9 0 0
1 hog.....	5 0 0
3 muskets.....	30 0 0
1 American axe.....	2 0 0
1 chest.....	3 0 0

Clothing.....	£12 0 0
40 mats.....	10 0 0
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	136 0 0
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J. B. WILLIAMS, Esq.,  
*American Consul, Lanca.*

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No. 4.

LAVAKA, *November 24, 1852.*

MY DEAR HUSBAND: I now have an opportunity of sending you a few lines, to let you know that the family are all well. Thacomban was at our house a few days ago and inquired after you. I told him that you had gone in the ship with Mr. Williams. He said, "What makes him go in a ship that takes (Verrys) to Rewa? Very good pay, with fire." What makes you go in a ship that none of the other white men does? You had better stop at home than go, and for us to hear people talking bad all the time. I have bought a little oil, but the people wants different trade than I have got.

Wishing you health, I remain your loving  
 CAROLINE MAGOWN.

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No. 5.

CRAIGROONEY, OVALAN, *June 11, 1851.*

MY DEAR SIR: In reply to your letter, dated the 8th instant, wherein you request me to inform you of the nature of the conversation that took place respecting a fine imposed by you for the robbery of certain property at Nukulan, I beg to state for your information that I perfectly recollect of being present at Nukulan when a certain conversation ensued between Commoie (or Phillips,) the then principal chief of Rewa, and yourself, on the subject of a fine imposed by you, to be paid in beche de mer, upon the Rewa territories, on or about the 6th of July, 1849. Nearly two years ago, as far as I recollect, (for I did not take a minute of it in writing,) Phillips mentioned that the time stated by you, viz: "two months," was too short for his people to pay it in, and requested a longer period, when you consented to extend it to three months, and this Phillips agreed to. At the time my own opinion was that Phillips would pay the fine either in beche de mer or tortoise-shell. I perfectly recollect a sample bag (containing a picul of beche de mer) being handed to him, and I believe he carried it away in his canoe.

I remain, my dear sir, yours, very truly,  
 THOMAS F. McDONELL.

JOHN B. WILLIAMS, Esq.,  
*United States Consul.*

## No. 6.

*Inventory of property destroyed belonging to David Whippy, at the island of Prevloa, town of Lavaka, which was set on fire September, (about 20th,) 1853, by a native of Rewa, at about 10 p. m., estimated at its value in those islands.*

No.	Description of property.	Estimated value.
100	Muskets, at \$10 each.....	\$1,000 00
150	Kegs of powder, at \$8.....	1,200 00
700	Cwt. of lead, at \$12 cwt.....	84 00
4,000	Flints, at \$1 50 per 100.....	60 00
150	Lbs. whale's teeth, at \$1 per lb.....	150 00
6	Boxes vermilion, at \$18 box.....	108 00
4	Boxes axes, at \$30 per box.....	120 00
2	Chests of cloths, 20 pieces, at \$8 per piece.....	160 00
	Cash.....	90 00
1	Canton trunk, \$15.....	15 00
	Clothing in the same.....	50 00
1	Chest of cutlery.....	100 00
1	Clothing.....	50 00
3	Fowling-pieces, at \$12 each.....	36 00
4	Leather trunks, with clothes.....	60 00
1	Large medicine chest.....	100 00
2	Small.....do.....	50 00
	A suit of partly worn sails, running and standing rigging, and canvass for a new suit for a schooner of 16 tons.....	150 00
	The sails and running rigging for a sloop-boat of 8 tons.....	30 00
1	Chest of carpenter's tools.....	70 00
3	Pit-saws, at \$10 each.....	30 00
1	Cross-cut saw, \$7.....	7 00
3	Kegs white lead, at \$5 each.....	15 00
10	Gallons paint-oil, at \$2 gallon.....	20 00
1	Keg black paint, \$10.....	10 00
1	Bbl. pitch, \$10.....	10 00
1	Bbl. tar, \$10.....	10 00
1,000	Lbs. new hemp rope, 4½ inch.....	80 00
	A lot of oak casks.....	150 00
1	60 gallon cask of oil.....	30 00
6	Scythes, at \$1 50 each.....	9 00
3	Bowditch's Navigator.....	3 00
	Medical books, and others.....	40 00
1	Keg of cut nails, at 12 cents per pound.....	12 00
1	Brass swivel, stolen.....	40 00
2	Pairs smiths' bellows.....	50 00
500	Cwt. of small round bolt iron.....	20 00
400	Cwt. of iron hooping, at \$5 per cwt.....	20 00
1	Writing desk, many valuable documents in it.....	
12	Lbs. of tortoise-shell, at \$4 per lb.....	48 00
1	Spy-glass.....	20 00
1	Large looking-glass.....	4 00
2,000	Feet of lumber.....	80 00
		4,391 00

The larger portion of my property, herein enumerated, was burned at Lavaka, island of Ovalan, in the year 1853, by a native teacher

to the Wesleyan Mission, it is believed, and by the authority or consent of the chief of Ban, who is regarded as the king of the Fejee islands.

DAVID WHIPPY.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,

*Lavaka, Ovalan, September 28, 1855.*

No. 7.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,

*Harbor of Rewa, September 24, 1855.*

We, the undersigned chiefs of Rewa, do hereby pledge ourselves to pay to Mr. Williams, United States commercial agent, Fejee islands, for the destruction of property by fire in Rewa, to the amount of twelve hundred dollars, (\$1,200,) awarded to be due to him by Commander Boutwell, of the United States ship John Adams, on the 18th of September, 1855; also to return twelve (12) pigs, 1 canoe, sails, &c., complete, and to build again the house on Lenthala; the said amount to be paid within six months from date in gum, (ma cum da,) at (\$5) five dollars per picul of one hundred and forty pounds, cocoa-nut oil at \$50 per ton, or other articles the productions of the country.

his  
MATI + NA VANUA.

mark.

his  
VONA + VALO.

mark.

his  
RO RO + NA VUKA.

mark.

his  
RO MA + VASE.

mark.

his  
COOLA, +

mark.

Witness to signatures—

D. R. LAMBERT,

*Lieut. U. S. Navy.*

No. 8.

U. S. SHIP ST. MARY'S,

*Rewa, (Fejees,) July 28, 1851.*

GENTLEMEN: You are hereby constituted a Board of Arbitration to take into consideration and finally to dispose of the case of the American whaling barque Elizabeth, which was lost at Lavaka, Ovalan, in February, 1846. The natives of that place are charged with robbing her to the amount of one thousand dollars in property. It will

be your duty to investigate the facts connected with the case by credible testimony, and bring in your award of damages accordingly, which Tui Viti and Tui Lavaka will be required to pay over to the United States commercial agent in this place.

In addition to this case, you will also investigate the circumstances connected with the robbing of Mr. Williams, the commercial agent of the United States at this place, as detailed in the written communication herewith submitted, by people of the Rewa district, inquiring into the facts of the alleged losses, and the correctness of the charges set opposite to the articles enumerated in the schedule. Your object will be to act with strict and impartial justice, both towards the natives and Mr. Williams, and your award as to the damages sustained, or fine to be levied on the people of Rewa, shall be final and conclusive. Tui Viti will be held responsible for the payment of the amount you may agree upon. Its faithful fulfilment will be demanded and insisted on; payment to be made in the products of the country, viz: oil, beche de mer, shell, arrow-root, pigs, yams, &c., and a reasonable time allowed to collect it together.

In case of a different opinion between you, a third person may be called on, as agreed upon between you.

A just and reasonable rate of interest should be allowed Mr. Williams on the amount of loss from the time of its occurrence.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. H. MAGRUDER,

*Commander U. S. Ship St. Mary's.*

To Rev. JAMES CALVERT and DAVID WHIPPY.

The above has been fully explained to the chief, and he has given his consent for the payment of that which was actually stolen.

A true copy from the original.

JNO. B. WILLIAMS,

*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and*

*U. S. Commercial Agent, Fejee Islands.*

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No. 9.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1855.

I have been directed by the government of the United States to visit the Fejee islands, in the United States ship of war John Adams, for the purpose of inquiring into and redressing the wrongs which American citizens have received at your hands. The Great Chief who has charged me with this mission presides over a country whose resources are inexhaustible, and whose powers to punish his enemies are beyond the comprehension of those who have never visited his empire. It is charged against you that you have caused American property to a very large amount, and valued at many thousand dollars, to be taken from the island of Nakulan and other places and appropriated to your own purpose and to that of your friends. You have treated the persons who came here in ships bearing the same flag



hat you now see floating over the "*John Adams*" in a manner that will not be submitted to by the government of the United States of America. You are, therefore, required to restore that property, or its value, with interest, to ask pardon of my nation, and promise to respect its flag for the future.

I am, &c., &c.,

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commanding U. S. Sloop John Adams,*  
*in Rewa Roads.*

To THACKAM BAN, TUI VITI, or Chief presiding in his absence.

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No. 10.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, September 27, 1855.*

I, Commander Boutwell, on behalf of the government of the United States, do demand of the chief or chiefs of Ban, thirty thousand dollars, or that amount to be paid in fish, cocoanut oil, gum, pigs, and yams, within twelve months from this date. The money, or its equivalent, to be paid into the hands of John B. Williams, esq., United States commercial agent at the Fejee islands, and to be distributed in the following manner :

Fifteen thousand dollars to J. B. Williams, esq., for the loss of property on the island of Nakulan ; three thousand dollars to J. H. Williams, consul of the United States at Sidney, for the loss of his property on the island of Namuka ; four thousand dollars to Chamberlain & Co., Salem, for the loss of other property at Lavaka, Ovalan ; four thousand dollars to Mr. Whippy, United States consul at Lavaka, Ovalan, for the loss of his property on Ovalan ; fifteen hundred dollars to Shattuck and McComby each, as compensation for the loss of their property, and for being clubbed by the natives on the island of Namuka at the time they robbed Mr. Williams, of Sydney ; and one thousand dollars for the robbery of the barque "*Elizabeth*" at Tetonga.

As I have many claims on these and other islands to settle, and my time being limited, I must urge the authorities of Ban to act speedily, and not compel me to go after the so-called Tui Viti, or approach near the island of Ban, for my powder is quick and my balls round.

E. B. BOUTWELL, *Commander.*

P. S.—You are also expected to pay, in pigs, &c., for the bullocks and sheep you destroyed on Nakulan belonging to United States consul.

E. B. B.

## No. 11.

LAVAKA, *September 27, 1855.*

SIR: The cutter "Wave," in my charge, was forcibly boarded on the 10th September, in Somu Somu bay, by four large Tonga canoes, and the chief of Lavaka and a Ban chief taking out of the cutter prisoners, for which, three days after, I was obliged to pay, for their release, four muskets, twenty pounds gunpowder, eight hundred musket-balls, one American axe, and one large trunk. It is my candid opinion that if this is not looked into, it will not be safe for small vessels to cruise among these islands. The chief of Lavaka and his friend were with me for the purpose of collecting provisions which I would not be able to obtain without their assistance. The above is a true copy of the report I left with Captain Denham, of her Majesty's ship Herald.

I was under an engagement with Captain Dun, of the American barque Dragon, for the purpose of collecting cocoanut oil, and the provisions were for my voyage to the King's Mill group for that purpose.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

GEO. STEWART,  
*Master Cutter "Wave."*

Commander of U. S. ship JOHN ADAMS.

## No. 12.

UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL AGENCY,  
*Santhala, Rewa, Fejee Islands, February 23, 1854.*

*To the Captain of an American ship-of-war in this group of islands:*

SIR: I do myself the honor to inform you that, in a letter of arbitration left by Captain Magruder, of the United States sloop of war St. Mary's, it states "that Tui Viti and Tui Lavuka should be held responsible to pay the one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plundered from barque 'Elizabeth,' whaler, of Freetown." I have to inform you that Tui Lavuka did *not* pillage that property, but was plundered by Tui Viti of Ban, and that Tui Viti and the Ban people are the only parties concerned in that robbery, and ought to be made responsible to pay that loss.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and  
U. S. Commercial Agent, Fejee Islands.*

## No. 13.

REWA, *August 5, 1853.*

DEAR SIR: Samson, a Ta Ted man, has informed us that they, the Ta Ted men of ———, took a part of your property that was stolen

from Nukulan in July, 1849; but that the Moque, and other towns then under Ban and the Ban people, took a great number of double-barrel guns—more than thirty—and carried them away, together with a great quantity of other goods and trade.

MATHEW

JOHN H. DANFORD.

J. B. WILLIAMS, Esq.,

*U. S. Consul, Lantahala, Rewa, Fejee Islands.*

LAVAKA, OVALAN, *February 20, 1854.*

MY DEAR SIR: In speaking to the Sassacou chief about your oil, he told me that he was ready to commence and make it as soon as he had orders from Thacombau.

Yours, truly,

D. WHIPPY.

J. B. WILLIAMS, Esq.

No. 14.

REWA, FEJEE, *September 17, 1855.*

SIR: On the visit of the United States ship of war the "St. Mary's" to Fejee, in July, 1851, Captain Magruder left a letter with me requesting Mr. Whippy and myself to make inquiries about certain articles said to be stolen by Fejeeans from J. B. Williams, esq., United States consul, in July, 1849, when he had the misfortune to burn his premises at Nukulan, and expose the property rescued from the destructive fire to the cupidity of the natives.

Soon after Captain Magruder's departure, Mr. Whippy and I had conversations, and proposed going to Rewa to make inquiries on the spot; but war continued to increase, through which Fejee has been in a most distracted state, until the peace which has just been established, so that we have not been able to join in the investigation.

I have several times made inquiries respecting the thirty-one double-barreled guns said to have been stolen, charged \$992, with interest. A native teacher, then stationed on the island of Nukulan, where the fire took place, told me that he saw the barrels after the fire, the stocks having been consumed. A worthy chief of Rewa, of whom I have heard Mr. Williams speak in high terms, also told me that the double-barreled guns were burnt, and that he saw the barrels separated after the fire. Others also bear the same testimony. So that, as it regards that item, Mr. Williams has no just claim on any one. Some of the blankets, I hear, were stolen by the fishermen of Beng-ga; also some whales' teeth and other articles. As it regards the prices of the articles, to which Captain Magruder referred in his letter, Mr. Williams is the best judge.

With reference to the chief on whom the claim—as far as may be

established to be just—shall be made, I conceive that Mr. Williams's views are altogether incorrect. The Vunavalo (formerly Tui Viti) of Ban has no authority to enforce payment in the Rewa district, to which the persons belong who are known to have stolen some of the articles; and to levy a fine on the Ban chief, or any other part of Fejee, cannot be right. Of this Mr. Williams must be aware, as he had left the dominion and protection of the Ban chief, and had placed himself under the protection of the Rewa chiefs. A document in my possession, forwarded to me by Mr. Williams, states that after the fire and plunder, he had "a conversation with Thokananto, (or Phillips,) the then principal chief of Rewa, on the subject of a fine imposed by Mr. Williams, (to be paid in beche de mer,) upon the Rewa territories." According to this document, Phillips consented to pay the fine in three months, and a "sample-bag" to contain a picul of beche de mer was handed to him."

I have the honor to be, sir, yours faithfully,

JAMES CALVERT,  
*Wesleyan Missionary.*

Captain BOUTWELL,  
*Commander of U. S. ship of war "John Adams."*

The Reverend James Calvert knows that the same authority that appointed him an arbitrator directed him to hold Tui Viti responsible for the debt. He knows also that the late chief of Rewa, Phillips, was brother-in-law to Tui Viti, the chief of Ban, and that Tui Viti placed Phillips in power in Rewa by force of arms, and that the young chief, or heir to the Rewa kingdom, is now at Ban, under the guardianship of Tui Viti. These facts, together with many others, I presume, induced Commanders Pettigrew and Magruder to hold Tui Viti responsible for this debt.

E. B. BOUTWELL.

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No. 15.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 1, 1855.*

SIR: Your letter of the 17th ultimo was received yesterday. Having been ordered to the Fejee islands "to demand and insist upon reparation for wrongs committed upon the property of American citizens by the natives of these islands, and to take such steps as, in my opinion, will best afford protection for them in the future," I am determined to have my countrymen remunerated for the losses they have sustained, and to inflict punishment where it is due; but as I do not wish to punish the innocent, I am, therefore, anxious to obtain all the information I can on the subject. I shall, however, decide these matters myself, without the assistance of a board of arbitration, and therefore will not require the assistance of Mr. Whippy and yourself in that capacity. The white men and the black at Ovalan, and at all the other places, except Ban itself, as far as I can learn, join in the

assertion that the chief of Ban is responsible for all the robbery, mischief, &c., that has taken place for the last ten years at these islands. Indeed, I think the fact of the chief of Ban being absent from home at this time, making war on, subduing, and permitting innocent people to be roasted and eaten, is ample proof of his aspiration to the supreme command and controllership of these islands; and the fact of his permitting the Tonga and Fejee people to rob two small vessels off Somu Somu, since my arrival in the group, is a proof that he is yet doing mischief. If it be true, as stated, (and I have received the information from very good authority,) that Captain Denham and yourself were willing to receive the Fejee islands from Tui Viti only a few weeks previous to my arrival, and to hoist the English flag on obtaining his permission, you, of course, must regard him as the responsible man of these islands, and as such I shall consider him.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

JAMES CALVERT, Esq.,  
*Chairman of the Wesleyan Missionary  
Society, Newa, Fejee Islands.*

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No. 16.

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SHIP HERALD,  
*Lavaka, Wednesday, November 8, 1854.*

*To Mr. David Whippy and the white residents at Ovalan:*

Whereas the king of Ban (Tui Viti) has intimated to me his intention—to me, his gracious intention—of visiting her Britannic Majesty's ship Herald, under my command, as early as possible *to-morrow* as he can get from Ban, with a view to hold a conference with the white residents of Lavaka, in order to settle all differences and establish peace upon a happy and permanent basis—

I hereby invite Mr. David Whippy, and others of the white residents, to avail of the proffered meeting; and I beg to add, that it will be advisable. Tui Lavaka, who is also invited, and the residents, or their representatives, should be on board, where I shall be happy to receive them before the king comes.

H. B. DENHAM.

This letter proves that Captain Denham regarded this man as king of the Fejee islands.

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S.  
Commercial Agent, Fejee Islands.*

## No. 17.

UNITED STATES SHIP OF WAR JOHN ADAMS,  
October 1, 1855.

REVEREND SIR: In answer to your letter, uncalled for, to Commander Boutwell, commanding the United States ship John Adams, I have to say, firstly: you state, "the property saved from the fire was exposed to the natives." I must ask you, were you there to see it? This I positively deny.

Secondly. I herewith enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Whippy to me, denying that part.

Thirdly: the double-barrel guns you refer to. I hold in my possession a letter signed by the Rev. Mr. Mathew and a Mr. Danford, stating they heard a party present, when the plunder was going on, say, "that Muque and other towns, then under Ban and the Ban people, took a great number of double-barrel guns, more than thirty, and carried them away, together with a great quantity of other goods and trade." Of this evidence, I should not call upon the subjects of any nation to say whether my claim is just or otherwise; I abide by the decision of my government.

Fourthly. The blankets and other property, but small quantity, went to Beng-ga, mostly to Ban.

Fifthly. You say the claim, "as far as it may be established to be just, shall be made. I conceive that Mr. Williams's views are altogether incorrect. The Vunavalo (formerly Tui Viti of Ban) has no authority to enforce payment in the Rewa districts, to which the persons belong who are known to have stolen some of the articles; and to levy a fine on the Ban chief, or any other part of Fejee, cannot be right. Of this Mr. Williams must be aware." You say, the then Tui Viti (king of Fejee) has no authority. I claim as he, Tui Viti, assented to the letter of arbitration handed to me by Commander Magruder, then commanding the United States ship of war St. Mary's. Again, you say, "as he left the protection of the Ban chief." I ask no other protection of the Fejeean than that laid down in the treaty or regulations made here by Commander Wilkes, of the United States exploring expedition, in 1840.

Once more, you say "you have a document in your possession, forwarded to you by Mr. Williams, stating, that after the fire and plunder he had a conversation with Thokanauto, (or Phillips,) the then principal chief of Rewa, on the subject of a fine imposed by Mr. Williams, (to be paid in beche de mer) upon the Rewa territories; according to this document, Phillips consented to pay the fine in three months, and a sample-bag, to contain a picul of beche de mer, was handed to him." I hold the original of this note, and I do not know what can be more positive proof of the plunder and destruction of property. At the expiration of three months, Phillips observed to me "that Tui Viti forbid his paying the fine." The territory of Rewa then being in dispute between Phillips and his brother Quaraingo, and the assistance of the chief of Ban having reinstated Phillips into Rewa, he (Tui Viti) had a right to dictate to Phillips his own terms; and having



interfered to prevent Phillips from paying me for the plunder and destruction of my property in that territory, he, Tui Viti, in accordance with the laws of civilized nations and these islands, becomes responsible to me for the payment.

In conclusion, reverend sir, I wrote you twice on the subject of the arbitration, and received no answer to my letters. I therefore consider it a piece of presumption in you to interfere in any matter where the commerce of our merchants or their interests have or are suffering, as the commander of the United States ship of war John Adams is fully instructed by the government of the United States of America to settle all claims of its citizens without your aid or assistance, or of the assistance of any other nation.

During my absence home, one of your missionaries, as you are well aware, took possession of my house and property, the gentleman in charge protesting against it. This you, of course, cannot deny; as you observed to me, "he (the Rev. Mr. Moore) had done wrong." In any civilized country an action for damages could have been brought against him, and he made to suffer severely.

I remain, reverend sir, yours truly,

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S.  
Commercial Agent, Fejee Islands.

### No. 18.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka Harbor, October 1, 1855.*

SIR: Touching the conversation of the arbitration we had together, I beg to inform you that the matter has never been acted on, otherwise than once making mention of it to the chief of Lapacou, and once having talked it over in Mr. Calvert's house, at Rewa, when both of us thought it was hardly worth while to have anything to do with it, being resident here, and that the natives would pay very little attention to anything that was said to them on the subject; but, if Mr. Calvert had wished to have spoken to the Rewa people, he might have done it, to the best of my knowledge, as I have heard of his going backwards and forwards very often during the war; and during the above mentioned, the chief of Ban was acknowledged by the ships of war of several nations as king of Fejee, and has so for the last ten years, and as far as I can learn the majority of the property plundered in these islands from whites has been taken to him, or that he has demanded it of them that had stolen it, and put it to his own purpose.

Your obedient servant,  
DAVID WHIPPY.

J. B. WILLIAMS, Esq.,  
*United States Consul.*

No. 19.

BAN, FEJEE, *September 29, 1855.*

SIR: I beg most respectfully to venture to inform you that the claim now made on us by John B. Williams, esq., is unjust.

1st. Because we were not accessories in any degree whatever to the seizure of the property belonging to J. B. Williams, esq., J. H. Williams, esq., and Messrs. Shattuck & McComby.

2d. Because the places where these outrages were committed, Nukulan and Namuka, were not included in our dominions at the time, neither are they now. In proof, we refer to the statements of Commodore Wilkes, and of every commander and captain in the naval and merchant services who have visited these parts. We refer to the record of the inquiry lately instituted on board her Britannic Majesty's ship Herald, at which Mr. Whippy, United States vice consul at Lavaka, Ovalan, was present. We refer to the American citizens at Ovalan who are acquainted with the subject.

Lastly. We refer to the claim which J. B. Williams, esq., himself made on Phillips, the late chief of Rewa, and which that chief admitted and engaged to discharge.

With reference to the claim of Messrs. Chamberlain & Co., we can only inform you that the burning of Lavaka is still involved in mystery. We maintain that we were not accessories, and would again refer, most respectfully, to the evidence given by the whites on board the Herald.

I am, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

his  
YAGO + DAMU,  
mark.

*On behalf of myself and the other chiefs now present at Ban.*

E. B. BOUTWELL, Esq.,

*Commander U. S. Ship John Adams.*

Witness to the signature of Yago Dumu :

JOSEPH WATERHOUSE,

*Missionary to Fejee.*

This letter is signed by a chief who has no authority in Ban when Tui Viti is at home, and written by an English missionary to express the missionary's sentiments.

E. B. BOUTWELL.

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No. 20.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 2, 1855.*

CHIEF: When I made the demand on the chiefs of Ban for indemnity, I expected an acknowledgment of your indebtedness, and your willingness to pay, and not a letter of explanation. My officer had no authority from me to enter into any agreement with you, or the head of your nation. I am satisfied of the guilt of Tui Viti as the

chief of Ban. I know that his influence prevented Phillips from paying Mr. Williams for his losses on Nukulan. I know that a whale's tooth was sent to Suva from Ban, with orders to club Shattuck and McComby. I know that the Rewa people robbed Americans at Lavaka, and Ban sanctioned it. I know that Tui Viti came to the house of an American at Lavaka, and threatened the wife of that American that he, Tui Viti, would burn the American's house; and I am satisfied in my own mind that the native teacher set fire to the town of Lavaka, by order of Tui Viti. The chief, Tui Vevuka, states that the Ban people robbed the whale ship "Elizabeth," of Massachusetts, America, at Ovalan. Mr. Williams and Mr. Whippy both testify to the same fact. I am well aware that there are other chiefs and their people guilty of having injured Americans.

I will in time call them to account, but at present I am in pursuit of Ban, or her principal chief. I have to request that you will write me no more letters, but forthwith pay the money, or give me ample security that it will be paid in twelve months. The brave never threaten, nor do the virtuous boast of their chastity. I do not, therefore, tell you of the consequences of a non-compliance with these requirements. I would, however, remind your teachers of ethics that the golden rule is too often forgotten, and that the eleventh commandment has, by general consent, become binding on all those who keep the other ten.

I am, sir, yours, respectfully,  
E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

Chief YAGO DAMU,  
*Ban, Fejee Island.*

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No. 21.

SUNDAY, *September 30, 1855.*

If you send the boat, I will not be gone more than ten days, and will do well for you.

There is a first-rate log on Cantab, and if you will send me the boat I will bring it off. You cannot lose on it. Send some of Dun's powder. Jack Wilson and Charley will pay you what you charge for the boat. You can tell Williams that the Cantab men refused the trade, and say that they know nothing of begging pardon to white men. They told me they did not think we were game to come.

Yours,

J. DYER.

To VALENTINE and McCOMBY.

## No. 22.

SATURDAY, *September 29, 1855.*

I have arrived from Cantab. The people of Naduper refuse the trade, and are sorry that they had not taken more. They say they are turned religious, and they are not frightened of a man-of-war as long as the missions are in the island. The use of the boat you can charge Charles Rounds what you like. When you come again bring the nails, or do not come without them, and the goat. I made no bill of what you had of me; but you charge me with things you have taken on to Ovalan. The bar of soap washed the rum down. I understand you have lots of rum, and I have a great quantity of good old Cantab grog.\*

Five hundred roots of grog.

Your humble servant,

JAMES DYER.

MESSRS. VALENTINE & MCCOMBY.

Don't forget the nails; the mast will be ready when you come again.

## No. 23.

LAVAKA, OVALAN, *September 27, 1855.*

MR. WILLIAMS—SIR: About three or four months ago a most audacious deed, unheard before in Fejee, happened and took place half a mile from Totonga. The case is this:

Two young girls, Emilie Fogus and Eliza Cunningham, aged thirteen years each, with a woman of some twenty-five years of age, went, for the purpose of catching shrimps, to a run of water called Druimba. In passing by the English mission, they saw a native, who followed them until they reached the said run of water; then, separating, he took the opportunity to assault Emilie Fogus. Her cries soon brought the other two to witness the brutal proceedings of the infuriated villain; the loneliness of the spot rendered their cries useless, and put their lives in jeopardy. As they approached, he offered to strike them with his club.

After beating and knocking down his victim, he succeeded in de-flowering her.

The father of the said Emilie Fogus being, I am told, an American, it will remain with you, sir, to see that justice is rendered to her, an orphan child.

Such an aggravating circumstance, sir, I hope will be seen into, or what is to come next? This last two years I have been the guardian

\* Cantab grog is manufactured from the ava root which grows on Cantab island, and is an article of trade on the coast.

of that child ; and my knowledge of you, sir, will not be disappointed in appealing for justice to a man of honor and a gentleman.

I am, sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

JOHN CURSON.

NOTE.—The native's name is Tawuki Flukala, belonging to Gaba.

No. 24.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 2, 1855.*

I, Tui Levuka, do promise to pay into the hands of Mr. Whippy, United States vice consul at this place, fifteen hundred dollars: one thousand and two hundred for the property taken from the brig "Tim Pickering," of Salem, Massachusetts, and wrecked on Ovalan; three hundred dollars for not punishing the native who committed a rape on the daughter of an American citizen formerly of this place. This amount to be paid in beche le mer, or cocoanut oil, and within ten months from this date.

his  
TUI × LEVUKA.  
mark.

*Witnesses to signature :*

J. B. WILLIAMS,  
DAVID WHIPPY,  
CHARLES PICKERING,

his  
RATU × MARA.  
mark.

No. 25.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 2, 1855.*

SIR: You will collect from the chief of Ovalan, Tui Levuka, fifteen hundred dollars, and, after reserving five per cent. for your trouble, you will forward to the underwriters of the American brig "Tim Pickering" twelve hundred dollars; the remainder you will hand to the girl who was ravished by a native some months since.

Yours, respectfully,

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

DAVID WHIPPY, Esq.,  
*U. S. Vice Consul at Ovalan.*

P. S.—The amount of twelve hundred dollars will be forwarded through the hands of Mr. Williams, United States commercial agent, to the underwriters.

E. B. B.

## No. 26.

ISLAND OF OVALAN, *September 27, 1855.*

MONSIEUR LE CONSUL: In accordance with your wish, I am about to tell you, in a few words, what I know on the subject of the English colony in the Fejee islands.

On the 23d of last July, Mr. Denham, captain of the "Herald" corvette, came to inform us that he was about to take possession of the Fejee islands in the name of his government, and that the English flag would be hoisted at Lavaka, after King George and Tui Viti, whom they expected, had arrived aboard his ship, and at the same time invited us to assist in taking possession. On the 25th two discharges of cannon announced the arrival of the two kings, and we went aboard immediately. That day the entire sitting was devoted to making peace between Tui Viti and the chief of Lavaka, and they were obliged to defer taking possession until the next day. On the 26th Mr. Denham sent us his boat to take us on board. "What good will it do to have the French missionaries present?" said Mr. Calvert; "of what service are they?" "I wish to confront you," replied Mr. Denham; who related this to us himself, and whose conduct seemed to us in every respect worthy of praise. The sitting being an open one, an armistice was then concluded between the king of Fejee and the chief of Lavaka, after which Mr. Denham addressed the following question to the king in English:

"Tui Viti, do you give your country to Queen Victoria?" Mr. Calvert, as interpreter, translated thus:

"Tui Viti, do you wish that your country should hold that relation to Queen Victoria of which we spoke yesterday?" "Yes," replied the king, "I wish she would come here to protect me." Mr. Calvert to Mr. Denham: "The king replies 'yes.'" Mr. Denham, not knowing that the translation of the minister was fraudulent, immediately wrote down the affirmative answer. One of us then asked permission to speak, and translated literally the question of the captain. "Tui Viti, do you give your country to Queen Victoria?" "I don't give the earth," replied the king; "I only wish she would come here and protect me." Captain Denham, astonished at a reply contrary to that given by Mr. Calvert, demanded of the latter, "Does not the king grant the land?" In spite of himself, the Wesleyan minister was obliged to say, "It is true, the king does not grant the land." The trickery was discovered. Mr. Denham then, without saying anything, put aside the papers he had in his hands, and announced to us that the sitting was at an end.

This, M. le Consul, is all that I know or can tell you on the subject of the English colony in the Fejee islands.

I have the honor to be, with distinguished consideration, your obedient servant,

J. V. FAVIER.

N. B.—Giving earth, in Fejeean custom, is yielding sovereignty.



## No. 27.

*Copy of a letter from Mr. Calvert, dated October 7, 1853.*

A new and unusually important affair has just transpired here, which has involved a peaceful part of Fejee in rebellion and warfare, in which the white residents and a Sydney captain are most seriously implicated. On the 2d of September information reached Ovalan of the capture of the "Wave" (cutter) by the people of Mulaka, a small island on the north of Viti Levu, where she had got ashore. It was feared that Mr. Ryder (an American and part owner) and others were killed. The island is subject to Veva, and the affair, whether of plunder or murder, would have been best attended to through the chief of this island; but without giving information of the occurrence to Newa, and with which we were not acquainted till 7th September, the "Jane Lucy," of Sydney, Captain George Stewart, and several small vessels and a canoe belonging to the Lavaka chief, sailed on Saturday, the 3d of September. On their way they met Mr. Ryder and his people. Having swam off to a schooner that was passing Mulaka on her way to Lavaka, Mr. Ryder got on board the "Jane Lucy," and all proceeded to Mulaka, where they anchored the same day. The cutter had slightly struck. Ryder hoped to have got her off. He was seized and thrown down on the deck, and a sailor was thrown overboard. All the company of Mr. Ryder, the sailor, and two Fejee women, and a half-caste boy, were taken on shore in canoes. Some ropes were cut, and the sails torn. Beche le mer, tortoise-shell, arrow-root, sandal-wood, and articles of barter were all taken by the natives. It is a barbarous custom in Fejee to plunder the wreck of whatever they may have rescued, and to murder all who escape. All lives being spared, the people of Nanalawa, another town on Mulaka, went to Nanasaley, the town where Ryder and his people were taken, desiring that the white men should be killed and cooked, and the two women should be kept, saying that they should be preserved and taken to their own town at Ovalan.

A native teacher accompanied the expedition in the mission schooner, which, I believe, was lent with the full understanding that nothing vicious would be done; this teacher fully persuaded, as no life was lost, none would be taken, agreeably with the fair protestations made by the whites. He accordingly under their directions put the Mulaka people on their guard, urging them to return all the property which they had taken. On Sunday morning, the 4th of September, Captain Stewart, and the whites from Ovalan, and the natives who accompanied them, went to the town to receive the property which had been taken from Ryder. All was not forthcoming. Some of the things which had been taken from Ryder had been shared on the main land, part of which had been taken to sell to boats trading further down the coast. The Mulaka people wished for longer time, that messengers might be sent to the towns which had received shares of the plunder. They said they would be able to produce most of what remained; but as the teacher came out of the town with

a message, he heard Thomas Rogers, an Englishman, formerly captain of the "Currency Lass," of Sydney, order the natives, who had accompanied the whites, of Lavaka, to kill one; they promptly obeyed. The slaughter then commenced, and soon, from the muskets of the whites, and the clubs and muskets of the attendants, fourteen were the fatal victims.

The town was burnt; there was a general plunder and destruction. Charles Pickering, from Sydney, boasted that he had got four muskets and a double-barreled fowling-piece. In addition to the fourteen barbarously and treacherously murdered, thirteen persons were taken away as captives to Ovalan, where they remain as captives. Among the captured is the wife of the chief of the place, her husband still living; three other women whose husbands are living; also two young women who are espoused to men still living. The vessels returned to Ovalan with great rejoicing. While the "Jane Lucy" was coming into port at Lavaka, those on board made their usual demonstrations of exultation over fallen foes, which is done by a raving kind of dancing, stamping, yelling, and firing of muskets. Swivels were also fired on the "Jane Mary," which Captain Stewart could have prevented had he been disposed to do so, instead of thus showing his approbation of what was termed, by one of the whites present, the most cold-blooded murder he had ever seen, the natives making no resistance. The whites reported that one of their number had counted thirty-four dead on one side of the town, and it was generally believed and stated by them that at least forty had been killed. Several of the people of Newa were anxious for prompt revenge; but Elija, a chief, and Vunavalo (formerly Tui Viti of Ban) resolved they would await the arrival of a ship-of-war, and not proceed to the further destruction of human life, informed the whites of his purpose to refrain himself, and restrain his subjects from revenging the unwarrantable destruction of so many of his people, but advised them to be cautious and vigilant in sailing about, and not visit parts connected with Newa, as he could not advert the good conduct of his people while suffering and exasperated by the grievous murder of Mulaka.

Application was made by the mountaineers of Ovalan, who have long been subject to Vewa, urging Elija to allow them to revenge the murder of Mulaka, and they appointed a day. He would not consent; being determined that he and his subjects would peacefully await the arrival of ships-of-war, which were expected soon. On the 20th of September, at 10 p. m., the town of Lavaka was destroyed by fire, by which most of the property of the whites resident in that town was consumed by the Lavacans and other natives. One child perished in the flames. It was believed by most that it was the work of an incendiary. Having heard that the blame was attached to Vewa for the burning of Lavaka, on the 23d I went over, desiring to consult Mr. Waterhouse as to the probable danger of Newa, and the desirableness of removing the Reverend D. Hazlewood, an invalid residing there. I also wished to state distinctly to the whites and to Lavaka my full belief that the Vewa and Ban chiefs had no knowledge of the fire. On my way over, I met the Vunavalo returning from Lavaka,

Tui Levuka having refused to see him. He was also ordered away from one of his own towns at Ovalan, which long had been servile to Ban. The Reverend J. Waterhouse said that he did not for some time believe that the place had been burnt by an incendiary, but now he believes it was not accidental.

The situation of the whites was deplorable. I sympathize deeply with them; but when they contended so confidently that the town had been destroyed by order of the Vewa chief, I felt bound strongly to state my full conviction that no chief of Vewa had any knowledge of the affair; and, further, that Elija had labored to prevent any evil coming on the whites in Lavaka and her dependencies; and that he had resisted the earnest request of the mountaineers of Ovalan from taking revenge for those killed and captured at Mulaka.

The Ban dominions at Ovalan, consisting of several towns, have already revolted. In the district of Luvoni the mountaineers were also expected to revolt from Nawa. That was all-important, as Tui Levuka and the whites would have all Ovalan in their own hands. All were incensed against Vewa; great rancor was manifest. They appeared capable of saying anything, and of doing anything, to prove what they said. Before I left, the following morning, September 24, the whites commenced collecting property to send to the mountaineers. The amount was unusually great, and fully calculated to gain their purposes. On my return, I was much pleased with the determination of Vunavalo and Elija not to sacrifice human life, but to try peaceably to retain their respective possessions as they had been held by their predecessors and forefathers. They both complained much of the interference of the whites, through whose influence and property the insurrection was effected. On the 25th of September, seven Ban carpenters, residing at Ovalan, and three other persons, were killed by the mountaineers, as the return for property presented and promised by Tui Levuka at Luvoni. Elija saw that Vunavalo was in difficulty at Montorigny; an important island adjoining Ovalan might be induced to revolt; and, fully confident of the faithfulness of Luvoni to Vewa, as they had repeatedly assured him, he determined to go to Luvoni to try and persuade them against hostilities. He landed in the night, and got safe to Luvoni. On his arrival, most of the Luvoni people were at Lavaka, having dragged the bodies of the carpenters and others to present to Tui Levuka and receive additional property. Elija's arrival was reported at Lavaka. Tui Levuka earnestly entreated that Elija should be killed; offered gifts, made promises, even gave a young girl, whom he had twice before given to two other parties. All this was too powerful for the mountaineers. They at length consented to kill their chief, Elija, who was murdered, with his brothers John and Samuel, his friends Daniel, William, and a Ban youth, a local preacher named Benjamin, and a Cantab man. This distressing intelligence reached us at midnight of the same day, the 28th September. Fejee is in a most wretched state. We are anxiously waiting the arrival of a ship-of-war. Should none have sailed direct for Fejee before this reaches you, please communicate the particulars to his excellency the governor-general, Sir Edward Home, and entreat him to communicate

our case, who are thus placed in danger by the bad feelings excited throughout Fejee by the interferences of Captain Stewart of the "Jane Lucy," of Sydney, English, Colonial, and American residents of Fejee.

I have, sir, the honor to be, your obedient servant,

JAMES CALVERT.

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No. 28.

*Copy of a letter from Mr. Whippy, United States Vice Consul at Ovalau, in reply to Mr. Calvert's letter.*

SIR: I have read the document handed me by yourself, signed James Calvert, and am surprised at the erroneous description there given of the unpleasant affair at Mulacca, and its consequences, and cannot for a moment surmise from what source Mr. C. could have obtained such incorrect information. In order to your better understanding of this complicated affair, I will explain the situation of this island with regard to Ban. Long before the Mulacca affair transpired, Mava, the brother of Tui Viti, had fled from his anger to this island, and presented teeth to the natives to join him against Ban. They received the teeth from him, (which was consenting,) and they only waited the opportunity of commencing hostilities, which the burning of Lavaka so soon afforded them. They were thus hostile to Ban before the affair at Mulacca, which transpired in the following manner: The cutter "Wave," owned in part and sailed by Thomas Ryder, anchored at Mulacca for the purpose of trading. She had finished her barter with the natives and was getting under way; a very light wind from the westward; and she being close to the reef or shoal, sent the boat ahead with two boys to tow her off, when a man named \_\_\_\_\_ came on board. Ryder asked him if he had come to assist him; he said yes. Ryder told him to go forward; the native told him to go himself. The end of the main sheet was hanging astern, which the natives seized, and dragged her on shore; they then got on board, seized and threw Ryder down on deck, and hove John Smith overboard, and plundered the vessel of everything to the amount of £600, or \$3,000. The boys, when they saw the vessel was taken, cast off the tow-line and pulled away to this place, (Lavaka,) a distance of near fifty miles, where they arrived the following day, and reported the capture of the vessel and the supposed murder of the two men. The people who were then at home consulted together, and it was agreed to sail without delay for Mulacca, to try to save the people, if they were not murdered, and recover the property. They accordingly sailed the next morning, about thirty in number; and the chief of this place, in a double canoe, with forty natives, offered his services. On the passage down, they fell in with the boat "Friends," with the men on board, they having effected their escape. They then went to demand the cutter and property, and anchored abreast the town. The natives were all armed with muskets, and would not come but within distance, showing a hostile disposition. They had left the town and retired

to a swamp, where they have a well-fortified town. It was concluded and agreed upon to go and demand the property, and if they refused, compel them; for which purpose the next day they landed at the eastward of the island, and sent a messenger to inform them of their intention. They returned a very small quantity of it, and said that was all. Another messenger was sent, begging to give up the things. They said the things were divided and sent to different places, and if they wanted them to go after them. A message was sent, telling them that they would be attacked if the property was not forthcoming. They said it was good to attack them; that is, they were ready. Everything that could possibly be done was done, to try to obtain amicable adjustment of the affair, but to no purpose; and when they entered the town, it was not with the intention, except in case of resistance, to molest any one, but to search for the property. When they entered the town they found two, known as ringleaders, one of whom they bound for the purpose of taking him on board. The other, attempting to escape, was shot by one of the natives outside the town, when one of the Mulacca people tried to club one of the white men, and thus commenced the destruction of life which followed. In respect to what Mr. C. mentions of going to the chief of Viva for redress, it would have been absurd in the extreme. In the first place, it is not a place belonging to Viva; and again no time was to be lost to try and save the people and rescue the property; and again, if the place had belonged to Viva, and we had sent to or gone there, he would not have interested himself in it. Former grievances have proved this. Some of our people were plundered on this island by Lavoni people, and went to Elijah for redress. He just paid a visit to the people, but next to nothing was recovered, and many of the things were offered for sale in Newa. A few days after, another, who was living at Newa, was robbed of everything he had, and recovered nothing; and it would have been the same in this case, had Mulacca been subject to Newa, which it was not. The Newa people massacred them, and those who were left alive were left so conditionally. This is the only connexion between Newa and Mulacca. Had this been the only outrage committed on us, we should perhaps not have taken up; but one of our boats, on a trade-cruise, had three hands killed, and nothing said. Another, close to the same place, had three killed, and the fourth taken on shore, and put to a slow and cruel death; another put into gear for water, and had his infant child's brains knocked out on a stone before his eyes, and he was only spared to repair their muskets, as he was a handy man in that way. Another man is killed, and the stumps of his arms and legs stuck in the sand and fired at. Two men are killed, being wrecked in a gale of wind. Four more are killed on shore at Nau; besides numerous other cases, where people have either been killed or clubbed, and left for dead. It was not the affair of Mulacca singled out that induced the whites to take it up, but a desire to put a stop to such a wholesale system of plunder and murder with which they were continually annoyed, and which, if tamely or cowardly submitted to, would increase to a greater amount. In fact, we could be safe nowhere; but had the affair transpired according to the account of Mr. Calvert, nothing could be urged



in favor of it. But it was fully intended to murder them; in fact, they would not then have escaped in the "Friends." The whites not only did not wish to kill any one, but saved a great number from being killed; and the Mulacca natives themselves say that if it had been according to the Fejee ways, none would have escaped. The Mulacca people themselves say it was a just punishment, and trading and a good understanding has existed ever since with them. What was stated in Mr. Calvert's letter, that the Mulacca natives begged them to collect the things, nothing of the kind was ever suggested by them, or it would have been acceded to if possible; but the situation of Mulacca with the mainland people rendered it impossible after they had got the trade, as they would sooner the whole of them had been killed than to return the property. The report of the teacher regarding Thomas Rogers is not to be relied upon, as he is a man of bad character, and was once dismissed for bad conduct. Respecting the women who were brought, they were brought with their own accord, as they were offered to go on shore, but refused, saying they would be killed if they did. This was prior to leaving Mulacca. As for Tui Viti and Elija wishing to defer the affair till a ship of war arrived, it was only done to throw us off our guard, that he might the easier destroy us and our children through other agencies. And it is a well-authenticated fact, that teeth were brought to the mountaineers for that purpose, from Newa; and the very night he came to Luvoni in Mr. C.'s boat, which was lent to him for the purpose, it was with the offer of property for the same purpose. These things considered, and our critical position at the time, while these things are unnoticed, inclines me to think that the whites have not acted detrimental to the character of those nations to which they individually belong, in the laws which they enact; and as an investigation of the case will bring many other important circumstances to light, I think nothing more can be said at present of any import.

I have the honor, &c.,

D. W. WHIPPY.

To the Commander of H. B. M.'s ship HERALD.

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### No. 29.

*The following are a few of the many acts of violence which have taken place since my residence upon these islands:*

The ship "Oeno," of Nantucket, wrecked at Turtle island, twenty-eight killed. The "Charles Doggett," nine of her crew killed. Ship "Glide," two killed. Schooner "Active," six of her crew killed, in the long-boat. "Amiable Josephine," taken at Vua, captain and two hands killed. "Sir David Ogelby," two killed, four wounded. Schooner from Tahiti, mate killed, captain's leg broken. "Elizabeth," crew remain on shore to October. Part of the crew of "Charles Doggett," taken on shore at Moala, ransomed at a high price. "Valladore's," crew plundered of everything. Brig "Juno,"



captain and boat's crew secured on shore—ransomed at a high rate, and nine killed; besides numerous others where vessels have been wrecked and plundered; but as these were vessels which were trading here, their enumeration may not be requisite, though some have so recently transpired. The following has happened to our community: One of our people was killed at Lakemba by the Ban men. Nine were killed at Ban, another at Bomah, by orders from Ban; four were killed at Nivai; four were killed at Chicombia; one at Kia; one at Eveydum; one at Vunarara; two at Sonocas; two at Fallau, by the Ban people. Seven more are killed on shore at Somo Somo; one killed and eaten at Wainunu. Three are killed at Nggan—(boat destroyed)—eaten. Four killed at Moala—(one a stranger, who had swam on shore from a passing vessel)—killed and eaten. One killed at Lasilasi. Two more are killed in a canoe, on a passage from Kadawan to Rewa. Three half-castes are killed in same manner. One killed at Varnu Balava; two more at Thethea; another of our number killed at Mala by the Ban people; one at Matuka; one at Nukulan; one half-caste child; one killed at Ban. One of our boats wrecked at Luthea; two killed: a canoe sent from Ban to kill the remainder: sent a boat to fetch them away, for which we were all ordered off the island on pain of death—which we were compelled to do, at an immense loss of property. “Young Phillips,” blown on shore at Nivai, plundered of everything. Another boat taken at Thethe—man and his wife killed. Ketch “Sylph” got on shore, plundered and destroyed. “Blackbird” taken, people thrown overboard, and killed in the water; three clubbed and left for dead at Nukubalavu. “Bill Fish” got on shore—people driven from her and plundered at Toco point; people saved by a Toco chief, for which a collection was made among the white people and sent him. Another is clubbed at Navatu—not killed. Attempts to take the “Friends”—one man struck down with a club. Cutter “Ranger” taken at Bengah—people beaten—retaken. Whale-boat fired into by the Ban party; mission-boat fired into in Rewa river; orders sent from Ban to kill four of our people up the Rewa river for trading with or near enemies to Ban. “Lone Star” fired into and chased. “Salmon” and cutter fired at, and chased by Ban canoes. Schooner “Mary” chased and fired into. All these have transpired previous to the affair at Malacca; and since the disturbance between this island and Ban, property had been distributed in a great many places. To take our boats and murder our people has been attempted in a few instances, but unsuccessful.

DAVID WHIPPY,

*Acting U. S. Vice Commercial Agent,  
Lavaka, Ovalan.*

The attention of the government is called to this statement, coming from an American, acting vice-consul at Ovalan, and reported to be a respectable gentleman. It shows the influence and character of the chief of Ban, Tui Viti, (viz: king of Fejee,) and the propriety of holding him responsible for many, if not all, the injuries received by Americans at these islands.

E. B. BOUTWELL, *Commander.*

## No. 30.

We, the undersigned, chiefs of Ban, admit the justice of John B. Williams's claims, as also that of the other American citizens, and promise on our part to pay the amount demanded by Commander Boutwell, commanding U. S. ship "John Adams," within the period of twelve months from this date.

OVALAN, October 3, 1855.

his  
RATU + MARA.  
mark.

his  
DRA + NA BUKA.  
mark.

his  
RATU ULA + VO.  
mark.

his  
RATU SA + KA.  
mark.

his  
RATU NA + VOA KU.  
mark.

his  
RATU + KA LE.  
mark.

his  
KO RO + LAT TO CON.  
mark.  
CATIANARA.

Witnesses:

J. B. WILLIAMS.

DAVID WHIPPY.

CHARLES PICKERING.

## No. 31.

*To the chief of Ovalan.*

*Question first.* Do you acknowledge the right of Tui Viti to cede Ovalan to England?

*Answer.* No.

*Question second.* Do you claim to be independent of all and every other island of the Feejee group?

*Answer.* Yes, I do.

*Question third.* Does not the law of nations hold you, as the head of your tribe or nation, responsible for the destruction of the property of all foreigners in time of war, whether made on you or by you on others?

*Answer.* I believe so; but I am not able to pay anything.

*Question fourth.* Do you not consider yourself responsible for the

property of the American vice-consul destroyed by the Fejee men during your civil wars?

*Answer.* The chief of Ban (Tui Viti) is responsible.

*Question fifth.* Are you prepared to stop your people from robbing the white man residing at Ovalan?

*Answer.* I have not the power, but I will bring all the rogues I can catch to the ship of war.

*Question sixth.* What security are you prepared to give me that you will hereafter respect the persons of America, and hold their property sacred?

*Answer.* My word, and a letter from the American consul that I was not in fault before, (and he presented the letter from Mr. Williams.)

*Question sixth.* Have you *lotoed*,\* and are you not taught that it is against the laws of God and man to steal?

*Answer.* I have, and I know the fact.

*Question seventh.* Then why do you permit it by those under your control?

*Answer.* Because my people *loto* with the tongue, but not at heart.

*Question eighth.* What do you propose to do when the question is proposed to you to give Ovalan to the English?

*Answer.* I will give up Ovalan to the English when they demand it, because I cannot take care of it without the assistance of the white man.

These questions were put to the chief of Ovalan with a view of ascertaining if Tui Viti, the King of Fejee, consulted him before he promised Mr. Calvert, the English missionary, to cede the island of Ovalan to the English.

E. B. BOUTWELL.

### No. 32.

*Houses and property belonging to J. B. Williams, destroyed by fire in Rewa by the natives.*

Houses—

Furniture—12 chairs, 2 tables, ratan chair, bedstead, likeness of Washington, garden tools, such as shovels, spades, rakes, etc., etc.....	\$125 00
Crockery and glass-ware, (large quantity,).....	150 00
2 sails, cooking utensils, coopers' and carpenters' tools, chests full of tools, copper pump, mats, baskets, 12 coils rope, 30 blocks, anvil, beak iron, 3 bundles iron hoops, and 1 hawser about 30 fathoms.....	390 00
170 pounds whales' teeth, \$1 per pound, copper and iron bolts, jack-screw, casks, tubs, screws, paper hangings, 50 rolls, books, tobacco, bed clothes, oars, two large mats, salt and saltpetre, 4 chests of trade, consisting of prints, cottons, blankets, 18 pounds vermillion, 6 dozen large hatchets, 20 dozen scissors, 16 dozen knives,	

\* In Fejee language, to *loto* is to turn Christian.

2,000 flints, files, rasps, spikes, nails, gimlets, boats,  
masts and sails, and ropes for boats, tin canisters, jars,  
book-shelves for papers and books, 12 pigs, \$50—5  
goats, at \$5 each, \$25.....

\$75 00

1,690 00

J. B. WILLIAMS.

REWA, *September 24, 1855.*

Sworn before me to the best of his knowledge and belief.

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

In order to make it as easy as possible for these people to pay up  
within the time, it has been reduced to twelve hundred dollars.

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul for New Zealand, and U. S.  
Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

Sworn to before me.

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*


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 No. 33.

On this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before me, Edward B. Boutwell, commander of United States ship "John Adams," John B. Williams, United States consul for New Zealand and United States commercial agent, Fejee islands, and did declare on oath to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the list of my property, with interest, destroyed at Nukulan and elsewhere in the Fejee islands, as furnished by the State Department to Commander Boutwell, is correct, with the addition of the stock destroyed by the natives, and not mentioned in that list.

JOHN B. WILLIAMS.

Sworn to before me.

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*


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 No. 34.
BAN, FEJEE, *March 10, 1853.*

SIR: Tui Viti begs to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th of March, which was interpreted to him. In reply he desires me to inform you that he purposes to complete his own arrangements with John B. Williams, esq., by having the casks filled, now in various islands, as soon as they shall be coopered.

Further, he now positively states that he has no intention to keep Mr. Williams out of possession of any oil or arrow-root which he may have bought of any other Fejeean chief.

He trusts that he will so act in all his trading and other intercourse with foreigners in and visitors to Fejee as to continue on good terms with your government.

I am, sir, your faithful servant,

JAMES CALVERT,  
*Wesleyan Missionary.*

Captain PETIGRU,  
*U. S. sloop of war Falmouth.*

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No. 35.

LAVAKA, OVALAN, *February 20, 1854.*

MY DEAR SIR: In speaking to the Lascow chief about your oil, he told me that he was ready to commence and make it as soon as he had orders from Thargembow.

Yours truly,

D. WHIPPY,  
*U. S. Vice Consul at Ovalan.*

J. B. WILLIAMS, Esq.

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No. 36.

On this sixteenth day of October, in the year 1855, personally appeared before me, Edward B. Boutwell, commander of the United States ship "John Adams," Charles Pickering, [an English subject,] who did declare on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that he collected seventeen tuns of oil from several of the Fejee islands for Mr. Williams, and I believe it was a small portion of what was due Mr. Williams by Thakombau (Tui Viti) and Navinda, principal chiefs of Ban, for trade furnished them. The balance I know has never been received, and I also know some empty casks have been destroyed by the natives—how many I cannot say.

CHARLES PICKERING.

Sworn to before me.

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

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No. 37.

REWA, *August 5, 1853.*

DEAR SIR: Samson, a Ta Tedman, has informed me that the Ta Tedman Albenga took a part of your property that was stolen from

Nukulan in July, 1849; but that the Megue and other towns, then under Ban and Ban people, took a great number of double-barreled guns, more than thirty, and carried them away, together with a great quantity of other goods and trade.

MATHEW MISSY.  
JOHN H. DANFORD.

J. B. WILLIAMS, Esq.,  
*U. S. Consul, Lanthala, Rewa, Fejee Islands.*

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No. 38.

On this sixteenth day of October, in the year 1855, personally appeared before me, Edward B. Boutwell, commander of the United States ship John Adams, John B. Macomber, [an American citizen,] who did declare on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the amount of oil shipped to Sydney for account of Mr. Williams was twenty-one tuns, or five thousand two hundred and fifty gallons. I was in the vessel that conveyed it to Sydney, and I believe this was all the oil Mr. Williams ever received for a large amount of trade furnished to Thakombau and Navinda, chiefs of Ban. I also understood from various sources that a number of empty casks belonging to Mr. Williams were destroyed by the natives.

JOHN B. MACOMBER.

Sworn to before me.

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

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No. 39.

On this sixteenth day of October, in the year 1855, personally appeared before me, Edward B. Boutwell, commander of the United States ship John Adams, John Kelly, [an English subject,] who did declare on oath, that he was employed by Mr. Williams to go to various islands in Fejee to cooper his casks; that in pursuance he hired a schooner belonging to Mr. Rider, and visited the various islands—Battiki, where I found, to the best of my knowledge and belief, six two hundred gallon casks; Wakia, one two hundred gallon cask; Kero, fifteen two hundred gallon casks; Narai, fifteen two hundred gallon casks; Negan, sixty two hundred gallon casks; Motoriki, twelve two hundred gallon casks; Ovalan, seven two hundred gallon casks. I found among the whole about fourteen full casks, say two thousand eight hundred gallons. Among the casks which I saw and coopered were many small ones; but I have, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reduced them all to large casks, as I have above stated. I also know he had a number of casks at the Assans. I believe also that Mr. Williams, through his agent, received but a small portion of the oil due him. I know, also, that the oil was for trade furnished to Thakombau and Navinda, principal chiefs of Ban;



for I saw these two chiefs a number of times take quantities of trade from Mr. Williams's house at Nukulan.

JOHN KELLY.

Sworn to before me.

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

No. 40.

U. S. COMMERCIAL AGENCY,  
*Lanthala, Rewa, Fejee Islands, March 14, 1851.*

SIR: I do myself the honor to return you my sincere thanks for the assistance you have rendered me in obtaining satisfaction for the murder of John Foster, a man in my employ, and demanding payment, through Tui Viti or Ratu Sum, of the Rewa chief, for the plunder and spoliation of my property at Nukulan.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul at New Zealand, and U. S.  
Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

To Captain PETIGRU,  
*Com'g U. S. ship of war Falmouth, Rewa, Fejee Islands.*

No. 41.

On this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, U. S. consul at New Zealand, and U. S. commercial agent, Fejee islands, John B. Macomber, who did declare on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the island of Namuka was purchased for the late Wilkinson & Co., merchants, Sydney, from the chiefs of Rewa. Deed lost when the property was destroyed at the island.

JOHN B. MACOMBER.

Examination taken, reduced to writing, and by the witness signed in presence of

[L.S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S.  
Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

No. 42.

On this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, U. S. consul, New Zealand, and U. S. commercial agent, Fejee islands, John B. Macomber, who did declare on oath, to the best of

his knowledge and belief, that the amount of property destroyed belonging to J. B. Macomber and America Shattuck, acting as agents for the late Wilkinson & Co., merchants, Sydney, amounted to upwards of one thousand dollars.

JOHN B. MACOMBER.

Examination taken and reduced to writing, and by the witness signed in my presence.

[L. S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S.  
Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

No. 43.

On this sixteenth day of October, in the year 1855, personally appeared before me, Edward B. Boutwell, commander of the U. S. ship John Adams, John Kelly, [an English subject,] who did declare on oath that there was property belonging to Wilkinson & Co., of Boston, destroyed on the island of Namuka by the natives of the main land. And I also know Mr. Macomber, one of the agents in charge of the property, came to Ovalan destitute of everything, even clothing, and very much mutilated—skull fractured. I also saw Shattuck, the other agent, after the destruction of the property at Nukulan; had his arms both broken, and otherwise much injured; and I understood he received his wounds at the time Macomber did.

JOHN KELLY.

Sworn to before me.

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

Cannot swear that the property was Wilkinson & Co.'s of Boston, but I know it was American property.

No. 44.

On this sixteenth day of October, in the year 1855, personally appeared before me, Edward B. Boutwell, commander of the U. S. ship John Adams, Charles Pickering, [an English subject,] who did declare on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the amount of property destroyed by the Lassa-lassa natives, by a whale's tooth sent from Ban for the purpose, (which is the common order from a chief to his dependent,) was about three thousand dollars, perhaps more—cannot be less.

CHARLES PICKERING.

Sworn to before me.

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

## No. 45.

On this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, United States consul, New Zealand, and United States commercial agent, Fejee islands, John Macomber, and did declare on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the amount of property of the late Wilkinson & Co., merchants, Sydney, destroyed by the natives of Namuka, was upwards of four thousand dollars.

JOHN B. MACOMBER.

Examination taken, reduced to writing, and by the witness signed in my presence.

[L. S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S. Commercial  
Agent at Fejee Islands.*

On this sixteenth day of October, A. D. 1855, I further testify, that Wilkinson & Co. hired the "Albion" (brigantine) to come to Fejee for a cargo that was collecting for them, but, on arrival of that vessel, found all the property had been destroyed.

JOHN B. MACOMBER.

Sworn to before me.

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S. Commercial  
Agent at Fejee Islands.*

## No. 46.

On this sixteenth day of October, in the year 1855, personally appeared before me, Edward B. Boutwell, commander of the United States ship of war John Adams, John B. Williams, and did declare on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the amount of property at Namuka previous to the destruction, say about two months, was, he should judge, worth about three thousand dollars, or more. In visiting the island after the destruction of property, he could find nothing there but the canoes, passing backward and forward.

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S. Commercial  
Agent at Fejee Islands.*

Sworn to before me.

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

## No. 47.

To my own mind there is presumptive evidence that the town of Lavaka was burnt by some person or persons at present unknown,

with the knowledge of Ezekiel, the present chief of Vewa and successor to Verani.

A few hours before the fire I received a letter from Mr. Calvert, in which was a paragraph to the following effect: "An influential party at Tovoni has requested permission to burn Lavaka, and has appointed the third night after the day in which the proposal was made, as the time for it. Ezekiel came over to know what Elijah (Vesain) thought of it, but he forbade it, and has sent Ezekiel back *at once* to prevent their dark design."

As the town was still burning, the native teacher, his wife, and a man who lived with them, came to our house bringing their box and their mats. We reproved them for being so anxious about their own property while the lives of so many children were probably still in danger. They then returned to bring the remainder of the goods to our house. Perhaps one of them remained. Two or three hours afterwards Mr. Whippy and Capt. Stuart came to my house and accused me of being aware that the town was to be fired. Shocked at such a charge, I immediately produced the letter to which I have before referred, and read it to them, and put it into their own hands for them to read it themselves.

I believe Daniel did *not* burn the town. 1st. Because he was in his own house at the time. The following persons were with him when the alarm of fire was given, and had been with him most of the evening: Koroiravugona, native of Lavaka; Matai, native of Vuma; Vuaka, native of Thantala; Rangina, native of Koro; Neomai, a resident at Lavaka and Daniel's own wife. One of these individuals afterwards told me that Tui Levuka threatened him if he persisted in saying that Daniel did not burn the town. 2d. Because his mats were *not* rolled up. Those who were with him testify to this. 3d. He expressed no wish to leave Ovalan after the fire. A native of Lavaka recommended me to send him away lest he should be injured on account of his connexion with Vewa. Afterwards Mr. Whippy urged me to the same measure, in consequence of which I sent him home. 4th. Others were at the time accused as strongly as was Daniel. I may mention Wavusavusa, Sekaraia, and two natives of Nayaukuma. It was reported that they were bound, and would be killed. I then went to Tui Levuka and entreated him to prevent their death, lest we should never know who authorized them to burn the town. I afterwards proved by the testimony of Tui Levuka's own father-in-law that these men were five miles distant at the time of the fire. It was then that the blame was fixed on Daniel. 5th. It is very unlikely that any chief of Vewa would have told Daniel that the fire was about to take place. They would fear lest Daniel divulged the secret to those among whom he lived, and whose interests were bound up in his own. 6th. Lotho, a chief of Lovoni, told me that Daniel had not burnt the town, but that it was done by the natives of Thawathe, who were dissatisfied with the payment of some old cocoanuts which Tui Levuka had received from them.

I believe that the fire was *not* by the orders of Thakombau (Vani-*valu*.) 1st. He accepted the soro from Tui Levuka, after the return from Malaki. Had he been of an evil mind he would have rejected

it. 2d. He came over immediately after the fire, and requested investigation in the presence of Mr. Whippy, United States vice-consul, and myself. 3d. He has denied all knowledge of this transaction from the very first. 4th. He has denied it to me when under the fear of death. 5th. He is not the man that is likely to do it. Ever since 1849 he has been afraid of exasperating any foreign power. 6th. It *could* be done without his cognizance. Two lamentable occurrences, which may yet involve war and bloodshed, have happened during his late absence at Ban. 7th. He eagerly courted inquiry on board the first vessel of war that visited the group.

I believe that it was *not* by the orders of Verani. 1st. He peremptorily forbade it. 2d. He said he would banish Ezekiel if he found he had been the originating cause of the fire. 3d. Taba states that Verani did *not* ask the Lovon people to fire the town. 4th. Tui Levuka himself told me, after Verani's death, that Verani had nothing to do with the burning of Lavaka, but that Ezekiel was guilty.

I am afraid that Ezekiel is the guilty party. 1st. He told me that the Malaki affair was one for which the aborigines themselves ought to take revenge. I told him that all the whites regretted the sad loss of life on that occasion, but that every white resident on Ovalan, including myself, considered that expedition absolutely necessary. 2d. He consented to the burning of Lavaka, and requested Verani to consent also. 3d. He was on the island at the time, and could have required any of the tribes to effect the burning. 4th. He was taking a walk on a hill at the time the flames were discovered. 5th. He sailed for Vewa early in the morning, and reported it on his arrival there; he afterwards denied it to Mr. Calvert. 6th. He did not seem surprised at Verani's death. 7th. He did not court inquiry on board the "Herald," last November, as did Vunivalu.

JOSEPH WATERHOUSE,  
*Wesleyan Methodist Missionary.*

Sworn before me, this fifteenth day of October, A. D. 1855.

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
[L. s.] *U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and*  
*U. S. Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

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No. 48.

Personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, consul of the United States for New Zealand and commercial agent for the Fejee islands, this sixteenth day of October, 1855, George Frask, a citizen of the United States, who being duly sworn, according to law, testified as follows:

Some time in the year 1853, just before the burning of the town of Lavaka, I was attending on a *beche le mer* house belonging to Captain Thomas C. Dunn, on the island of Nanuna. While there, a man sent by Verini, chief of Vewa, arrived with a whale's tooth,

which he gave to the chief of Nanuna to burn the beche le mer house, which that chief complied with, and burnt the house accordingly, causing a loss of about three hundred dollars to Captain Dunn.

*Question.* Who burnt the town of Lavaka?

*Answer.* I think Daniel, and my reasons for thinking so are these: I heard it all the way up the coast when I was bound to Lavaka. I slept one night at a town on Vite Leon, and a chief called Rolula told me that Verini, the head chief of Vewa, had told him that he would burn and destroy Lavaka or lose his life in the attempt. This conversation took place between me and the said Rolula before the burning of Lavaka—say four days.

I then kept on to Lavaka and saw Daniel, and told him that I had heard the Vewa people were going to burn the town; he denied that it was their intention. A day or two after this conversation with Daniel, the town was fired, and it was my belief, and the general belief of both whites and natives, that the said Daniel set fire to the town. His house was said to have been prepared for the fire, and his mats and property all prepared for removal previous to the fire. I believe that the Vewa people would not have fired the town without the orders or consent of Tui Viti, the head chief of Ban.

his  
GEORGE X TRASK.  
mark.

Witness:

L. C. SARTORI, *Lieutenant U. S. Navy.*

Examination taken, reduced to writing, and by witness signed in presence of

[L. S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S.  
Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

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### No. 49.

Testimony of "Corydaba," a mountain chief of the island of Ovalan, taken this twelfth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, before John B. Williams, United States consul for New Zealand and commercial agent for the Fejee islands, Daniel Whippy, a resident of Lavaka, being sworn according to law to act as interpreter:

The Vewa people caused the town of Lavaka to be burnt. The king of Ban came to Morturiki, and Frani came with him; after carousing there, the king sent Frani to the mountains with property to get them (the mountain people) to turn to their side and destroy the people of Lavaka, both whites and natives, and if the mountaineers decided to join them, they were to show a beacon-light on one of the hills. This happened about four or five days after the burning of Lavaka. Six men came in with Frani to the mountains; among them were Elijah, John, Daniel the teacher, Samuel, and others.



The mountaineers had a talk among themselves whether they would join the Ban or Vewa people, or the people of Lavaka. They finally decided to join Lavaka, and to kill the Ban and Vewa men who had made them the proposition; which they did, and sent their bodies to Lavaka.

*Question.* Did you send all the bodies to Lavaka?

*Answer.* We sent all but one; he was buried; he was a Kantown man; do not remember his name.

*Question.* Did those people that came to you in the mountains say who had set fire to Lavaka?

*Answer.* Tamba, a Levune man, who was one of the Vewa party, said Daniel had set fire to the town.

DAVID WHIPPY.

Examination taken, reduced to writing, and by the witness signed in presence of

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,

*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S.  
Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

[L. s.]

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No. 50.

On this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before John B. Williams, United States consul for New Zealand and United States commercial agent at Fejee islands, George Stuart, master of the late Jane Lucy, (brigantine,) who did declare, on oath, that the night before the fire at Lavaka he (Captain Stuart) was at Vewa, and heard the Rev. James Calvert say "that the town of Lavaka was in immediate danger." Captain Stuart observed to him (the Rev. Mr. Calvert) "that if he thought so he ought to inform the people in Lavaka." The chief of Vewa being present at the time, smiled, together with the Rev. Mr. Calvert, but made no reply. Captain Stuart got under way next day, a canoe with letters leaving Vewa at the same time. On the night of the day the canoe arrived at Lavaka the town was burnt, and he (Captain Stuart) stated to the missionary (the Rev. Mr. Waterhouse) that he believed the canoe brought letters to the native teacher to burn the town. The Rev. Mr. Waterhouse produced his letter, and the native teacher left immediately after. The general impression was that the native teacher set fire to the town, as he removed everything from his house before the fire, and moved out of the town. About a month after, he (the teacher) being in company with the chief of Vewa, on Ovalan, at a place called Lavuna, incited the mountain people against the Lavaka people; and after the chief of Lavuna, in the mountain of Ovalan, heard of their story, observed to him, they were friends of Lavaka, not of Vewa, and then killed the chief of Vewa and the native teacher.

GEO. STUART.

Examination taken, reduced to writing, and by the witness signed in presence of

[L. S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S.  
Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

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No. 51.

On this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, United States consul for New Zealand and United States commercial agent at Fejee islands, David Whippy, and did declare on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the amount of property landed from the American barque "Pilot," at Lavaka, was seven thousand dollars or thereabouts, and that it was destroyed by the fire.

DAVID WHIPPY.

Examination taken, reduced to writing, and by the witness signed in presence of

[L. S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S.  
Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

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No. 52.

On this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, United States consul, New Zealand, and United States commercial agent, Fejee islands, David Whippy, United States vice commercial agent, Lavaka, Ovalan, Fejee islands, and declared on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the amount of his property destroyed at Lavaka by fire, and the losses sustained when compelled to leave the town, amount to upwards of four thousand dollars.

DAVID WHIPPY.

Sworn before me this tenth day of October, 1855.

[L. S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and  
U. S. Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

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No. 53.

Personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, consul of the United States for New Zealand, and commercial agent for the Fejee

islands, this twelfth day of October, 1855, Charles Pickering, an English subject, now a resident of Tetonza, on the island of Ovalan, who, being sworn according to law, testified as follows:

Has lived twenty-two years in the Fejee islands.

As he was going down to the town of Lavaka two or three days before that town was burned, he met Daniel, the teacher, quite near the town. He said to this man, Why, you are putting up a fence here? He (Daniel) laughed and said, What is the good of a fence? The second night after this conversation the town was burned.

The general impression among the whites, and also among a large portion of the natives, is, that the said Daniel set fire to the town, and such is my own impression.

A few months ago he had a conversation with Tui Viti about burning Lavaka. Tui Viti said he did not order the burning of that town, but had told Verani, chief of Vewa, that he (Verani) might do as he liked about making war against Lavaka.

*Question.* Is it your opinion that the Vewa people would have burned the town of Lavaka without the consent of Tui Viti?

*Answer.* No, sir; they would not have dared to have done it.

He saw the boat, a whale-boat, that brought several natives from Vewa, with propositions to the Ovalan mountaineers to destroy the Lavaka people.

*Question by Mr. Binner.* Are the natives of the Fejee islands noted for speaking the truth?

*Answer.* No, sir, you cannot get the truth out of them.

*Question.* Do you believe that Corydoba, who gave in his evidence here this morning, to be a man whose evidence is of any value?

*Answer.* Some portion of what he says may be truth, but you cannot depend upon all he says.

CHARLES PICKERING.

Examination taken, reduced to writing, and by the witness signed in presence of

[L. S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,

*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and*

*U. S. Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

No. 54.

On this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, United States consul, New Zealand, and United States commercial agent, Fejee islands, George Stuart, master of the late Jane Lucy, (brigantine) who did declare, on oath, that while lying at anchor the day after the fire at Lavaka, he saw one Ban canoe taking away property belonging to the inhabitants; he pursued them (the natives) and came up with them, and found five large chests; towed the canoe back to Lavaka, and the five large chests were landed and put in Mr. Miller's house.

GEORGE STUART.

Examination taken, reduced to writing, and by the witness signed in presence of

[L. S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and*  
*U. S. Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

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No. 55.

On this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, United States consul, New Zealand, and United States commercial agent, Fejee islands, William Simpson, and did declare, on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the amount of property landed by the American barque "Pilot," destroyed by fire, was over seven thousand dollars.

WILLIAM SIMPSON.

Examination taken and reduced to writing, and by the witness in my presence.

[L. S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and*  
*U. S. Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

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No. 56.

On this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, United States consul, New Zealand, and United States commercial agent, Fejee islands, David Whippy, United States vice commercial agent at Lavaka, who did declare, on oath, that he was, by letter, ordered to leave Lavaka, and the letter was burned in the fire. Himself and all the foreign residents there in Lavaka were ordered away by Tui Viti, and sustaining a great loss, together with a schooner of seventy tons or thereabouts, broken to pieces and burnt, and obeying this order his loss was fifteen hundred dollars.

On or about the twenty-fifth of September, in the year 1853, he sustained loss by the burning of the town of Lavaka, the amount of upwards of four thousand dollars—say four thousand five hundred dollars; and further did declare on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the town was set on fire by a native teacher from Vewa; and his reasons for believing so are, that on the day of the fire that teacher had all his property and mats prepared for removal from his house, and as soon as the alarm of fire was given, he and his traps were missing from the town. This information he received the day after the fire; found he run to the commissioners with his things. The chief of Lavaka, when the alarm of fire was heard, seized his club and went to the teacher's house, but the man was missing. A

few days after the fire Tui Viti came to Ovalan, and the people, being satisfied that he was the cause of the fire, drove him away. And it was the firm belief that the native teacher burnt the town, being the general belief of all the whites and natives. The native teacher soon after went to Vewa; in a few days after, he, (the native teacher,) together with the chief of Vewa and others, went in the Rev. James Calvert's whale-boat to Ovalan with Fejee goods, to hire the mountaineers to destroy the people of Lavaka and Te Tonga. The mountain chief sent word to the chief of Lavaka that they were there for that purpose; he (the chief of Lavaka) immediately sent property to the mountains to save his own life by destroying the Vewa people, and the mountaineers complied with his request, and killed the native teacher and the principal chief of Vewa, with others.

Information was received of Tui Viti being at Motorika, waiting to hear the decision. Hearing of their death, left for Ban. That the chief of Vewa dare not act without the orders of the chief of Ban, Tui Viti, and from long residence in Fejee, declare that in the vicinity of Ban, nothing of moment could take place without his sanction.

DAVID WHIPPY,

*United States Vice Commercial Agent, Lavaka.*

Examination taken, reduced to writing, and by the witness signed, in presence of

[L. S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and*  
*U. S. Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

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No. 57.

LAVAKA, September 27, 1855.

SIR: The cutter "Wave," in my charge, was forcibly boarded on the 10th of September in Somu Somu bay, by four large Tonga canoes, and the chief of Lavaka and a Ban chief taken out of the cutter prisoners, for which, three days after, I was obliged to pay for their release, four muskets twenty pounds of gunpowder, 800 musket-balls, one American axe, and one large trunk. It is my candid opinion that if this is not looked into, it will not be safe for small vessels to cruise among these islands. The chief of Lavaka and his friend were with me for the purpose of collecting provisions, which I would not be able to obtain without their assistance.

The above is a true copy of the report I left with Captain Denham, of H. B. M.'s ship "Herald." I was under an engagement with Captain Dunn, of the American barque "Dragon," for the purpose of collecting cocoanut-oil, and my provisions were for my voyage to the King's Mid Group for that purpose.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE STUART,

*Master Cutter Wave.*

Commander of U. S. Ship JOHN ADAMS.

## No. 58.

I, Charles Rounds, belonging to New Bedford, was employed at Kandava, sawing timber; being unwell, I told the chief of the town of Na Thaber that I was about leaving—taking some of my things away. Leaving in the second boat, I discovered the natives stealing all the remaining property, amounting to about one hundred and fifty-five dollars, in tools and trade. At the request of Commander Boutwell, of the United States ship of war John Adams, I went over to Kandava and said to the people who robbed him to return the goods back, or their equivalent—thereby saving him (Commander Boutwell) the trouble of going over to that place with the ship of war.

The reply from the chief was, "That he had given away all the trade, and could not return it; that if they liked to come over and take payment they could."

CHARLES ROUNDS.

Sworn before me, this eleventh day of October, A. D. 1855.

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,

[L. S.]

*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S. Commercial  
Agent at Fejee Islands.*

## No. 59.

VATALILI, FEJEE ISLANDS, October 6, 1855.

We, the undersigned, chiefs of Vatalili, do hereby agree to pay to Thomas Ryder (4,000 yams) four thousand yams, and (8) eight large pigs, in payment of sundry articles of barter, stolen by our people from Thomas Ryder. The above-mentioned yams and pigs we agree to deliver within the space of six months from the date above, without fail, provided the said Thomas Ryder calls for the same.

his  
NUI TUI + VOU.  
mark.

his  
O RA CAVA, +  
mark.

his  
RAU + RI LAGI.  
mark.

Witnesses:

EDWIN HERITAGE.

his

CHARLES + GIBSON.

mark.

Approved:

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams.  
Ovalan, October 19, 1855.*



## No. 60.

On this eighth day of October, in the year 1855, personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, consul of the United States for New Zealand, and commercial agent, Fejee islands, Thomas Ryder, a native of the United States, who did declare on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that some time in the year 1853 I was approached by the natives of Malaki, who seized my small vessel, threw me overboard, and broke several of my ribs; they robbed me of sails, rigging, trade, &c., to the amount of two thousand dollars. Part of the articles taken were afterwards recovered; but the above sum is my remaining loss. I was induced by the captain of her Britannic Majesty's ship Herald to sign off all claims for this loss and injury. I would, however, state that I have suffered very much ever since from personal injuries received.

I also declare, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that Daniel, a native teacher from Vewa, set fire to the town of Lavaka, and that Tui Viti gave his consent to the chief of Vewa, who employed this man. My loss by the burning was about fifteen hundred dollars, reducing me to extreme poverty, without even clothes or food for my children. I would also state that the injuries I received at Malaki were by orders of a Ban chief.

THOMAS RYDER.

Examination reduced to writing, and by the witness signed in presence of

J. B. WILLIAMS,

[L. s.] *U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S. Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

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No. 61.

I, John Brown Williams, consul of the United States of America for New Zealand, and commercial agent, Fejee islands, do certify, that on the 12th day of October, in the year 1855, I heard the Rev. Mr. Binner state most distinctly, in the cabin of the U. S. ship John Adams, that, for truth, you could not rely on one word a Fejeean said—that they were most abominable liars—that there was no dependence to be placed in their word; at the same time stating, “that Tui Viti had done enough to hang forty men—that he ought to have been punished long since—that he had great power over Fejee.”

[L. s.] Given under my hand, at Ovalan, and the seal of my office at Fejee islands, this 13th day of October, A. D. 1855.

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,

*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S. Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

## No. 62.

I declare, on oath, that I heard the Rev. Mr. Binner (attached to the English mission) say, in the presence of Commander Boutwell and others, in the cabin of the "John Adams," on the 12th October, 1855, "that he would not believe any of the natives of the Fejees—that they were all liars." He also said, "that Vewa was entirely a dependence of Ban, and that Tui Viti, the chief of Ban, had been a great villain or rascal, and the most despotic of rulers; that he had committed many acts which he should have been punished for.

L. C. SARTORI,  
*Lieut. U. S. Navy.*

Examination taken and reduced to writing, and by witness signed in presence of

[L. S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and  
U. S. Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

## No. 63.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS, LAVAKA, OVALAN,  
*October 11, 1855.*

I have demanded of you indemnity for the losses Americans have received at your hands, and have sent several messengers to you requesting you to come on board the United States ship John Adams, all of which have been treated with contempt by you. I now require you to appear on board this ship at Lavaka, Ovalan, on the 16th of October, to confront Tui Levuka, Mr. Williams, American commercial agent, and Mr. Whippy, to answer for the robbery of the American barque Elizabeth, and American brig Tim Pickering, on the island of Ovalan.

Your obedient servant,

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

To the Chief of Ban, TUI VITI.

## No. 64.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*October 6, 1855.*

SIR: The United States ship John Adams, Commander Boutwell, having arrived some weeks previous to yourself, and having made himself acquainted with the subject of complaints of American citizens, and having made his demands on Ban and other places for in-

demnity, it may be safe to leave the affair in his hands, as they are in a fair train of settlement; and, in my opinion, any change of the demands or requirements made on them (the natives) by the commander of the "John Adams" might be injurious to American citizens.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,

*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and*

*U. S. Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

Commander BAILEY,

*Commanding U. S. ship St. Mary's.*

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No. 65.

UNITED STATES SHIP ST. MARY'S,

*Ovalan, Fejee, October 10, 1855.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 6th instant, respecting proceedings taken by you, commander of the United States ship "John Adams," for the adjustment of the claims of Consul Williams, and other Americans, for losses and outrages committed upon them by the natives of the Fejee islands. I have also received a communication from J. B. Williams, esq., United States commercial agent for the Fejee islands, and consul for New Zealand, informing me that his claims, as well as those of other American citizens, had been placed by you in a fair train of settlement, and also giving it as his opinion that any change in the demands and requirements made by you might prove injurious to the interests of American citizens. I have also received a communication from the Rev. Mr. Calvert, enclosing copies of certain correspondence had with you and the chiefs of Ban, and also the honorable Secretary of State, from which letters, from my own inquiries, made of one of the claimants, and from my own conversation with you, I am led to fear that you are not pursuing, in these matters, the true tenor of the very wise and equitable instructions of Commodore Mervine, contained in the following extract from his own order to you of February 20, 1855: "You will not take it for granted that all allegations against the supposed offenders *are true*, simply because claimants have filed their statements at the State Department. In prosecuting the important duty intrusted to your management and discretion, sound policy dictates *that a close and thorough examination*, upon the strictest principles of justice, should be made into every claim presented for adjustment." As you appear to be about to pursue a course involving, as I think, a deviation from your instructions, I should have felt compelled to remain here myself, and investigate these claims, (although the presence of two vessels of war would now be unnecessary,) were it not that Mr. Williams, the principal claimant, and also United States commercial agent, representative of the American claimants, has expressed a decided preference for your adjustment of the same, and also were it not that you had received instructions as late as June last, and have been already employed nearly a month in

the business. I shall therefore leave the matter for your final adjustment, with a caution as to deviating in the slightest degree from the said order of February 20, 1855.

It is my opinion that it was the intention of our commander-in-chief, in the words above set forth, that you should, in every claim presented to you, make a thorough examination into the justice of the same, afford a reasonable time to the accused to appear and defend themselves, either in person or by any respectable counsel, before the cases are taken against them by default; and in all respects, either by arbitration or by some other suitable proceeding, approach as near as circumstances will permit to the forms of a legal tribunal; thus proving to these uncivilized people, now in a transition state from the worst cannibalism to Christianity, that civilized nations are just, as well as formidable.

It appears from the correspondence above alluded to, that you commenced proceedings, under your instructions, by demanding on the 27th of September last, from the chiefs of Ban, \$30,000 for certain losses sustained in different places by American citizens.

That on the 29th September, Yago Dama and other chiefs of Ban replied that the said demand was unjust, and made against the wrong parties; and that you, on the 2d of October instant, replied: "When I made the demand on the chiefs of Ban for indemnity, I expected an acknowledgment of your indebtedness and your willingness to pay, and not a letter of explanation. I am satisfied with the guilt of Tui Viti as the chief of Ban," &c.

Now, this does not appear to me to be the kind of investigation intended to be pursued under the instructions of Commodore Mervine; neither is it the course usually adopted in cases of claims and denial of the same in our courts at home. The accused here made their plea, and it is right that they should be heard before a final decision.

If you think fit, after this expression of my construction of Commodore Mervine's instructions, "to take for granted that all the allegations against the supposed offenders are true;" if you think proper to demand and endeavor to recover claims for outrages and theft to the amount of \$33,000, on no other evidence than the bare statement of the claimants themselves—and this demand, too, made of parties who deny any jurisdiction of the people committing the crimes, and which question of jurisdiction you determine without allowing said parties fair opportunity to discuss; if you think proper to act thus, you will, I think, incur the responsibility of acting contrary to the tenor of clear, express, and unmistakable orders.

You have been empowered by Commodore Mervine to act both as a scrutinizing judge and a powerful executive; let your decisions, then, be impartial, and your severity tempered with mercy.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

T. BAILEY,  
Commander.

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,

*Com'g U. S. ship John Adams, island of Ovalan, Fejee.*

No. 66.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 10, 1855.*

SIR: After reflecting on our conversation this afternoon, and on the fact that the English missionary at Ban has thought proper to possess himself of my letters, or copies of them, addressed to the chief of Ban, and not to himself, and bringing them to you, with a view of getting you to interfere in the matter, I think, for the sake of harmony, and perhaps for the interests of all parties, it would be better for you to remain and settle the claims of citizens of the United States against the Fejee islands; and I would much prefer it, as I shall, if left alone to settle these matters, never permit an Englishman to take part in them.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. B. BOUTWELL, *Commander.*

Commander T. BAILEY,

*Commanding U. S. Ship St. Mary's, Ovalan.*

No. 67.

U. S. SHIP ST. MARY'S,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 11, 1855.*

SIR: I had the honor to receive, at a very late hour last evening, your communication expressing a desire that I would remain and settle the claims of American citizens against the Fejee islands.

Everything has been got in readiness for my departure to-day, and it would, perhaps, have appeared as well for you to have expressed this desire at an earlier moment—the more particularly, as you have hitherto intimated a very strong desire to settle these matters yourself.

My views as to the propriety of your remaining here and carrying out the very clear instructions of Commodore Mervine are fully set forth in a communication of this date, prepared before the receipt of this last request, and now forwarded to you.

In your last evening's letter you also allude to the Rev. Mr. Calvert, English missionary at Ban, as having furnished me with letters, and state that you "will never permit an Englishman to take a part" in these matters. This remark appears to me more singular, as you, in your letter to the same gentleman on the 1st instant, express a desire "to receive every information," and a wish [not] to punish the innocent.

I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Mr. Calvert, but presume that he is a person of character and integrity, or he would never have been selected by Commander Magruder to act as arbitrator in some of these very same matters, although, probably, as much of an Englishman four years ago as now.

You must bear in mind that, in these uncivilized islands, the missionaries in general are distinguished from the other residents by a

superior character for integrity; and to exclude such persons from assisting to defend the accused because they are Englishmen, is not the most enlightened policy for a representative of the United States to adopt abroad in the 19th century. You are, besides, the judge in these matters, and certainly should not fear any bias upon your own mind from Mr. Calvert, or any other Englishman, endeavoring to convince you of the innocence of the accused. The Fejee chiefs, of whose innocence or guilt you are about to decide, are ignorant of our mode of pursuing legal investigations, and utterly ignorant of the English language. To deprive them of the assistance of the missionaries, either as counsel or interpreters, or the aid of persons who are from their position and education the best qualified to act as such, appears to me would be the greatest injustice.

You have, therefore, my express orders to afford the accused every opportunity on all occasions to appear in person, as well as by *respectable* counsel, without regard to their nation or religion.

I enclose you a copy of the letter yesterday received by me from the Rev. Mr. Calvert.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. BAILEY, *Commander.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,

*Commanding U. S. Ship John Adams.*

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[Nos. 68 and 69 missing.]

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No. 70.

On this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, United States consul, New Zealand, and United States commercial agent, Fejee islands, David Whippy, United States vice-commercial agent, Lavaka, who did declare, on oath, that he never decided upon Mr. Williams's claim, or any other claims in Fejee, in conjunction with the Rev. Mr. Calvert, and any statement of Mr. Calvert to the contrary has no foundation in truth.

DAVID WHIPPY,

*United States Vice Commercial Agent, Lavaka.*

Examination taken, reduced to writing, and by the witness signed in presence of

[L. s.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,

*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and  
U. S. Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*



## No. 71.

On this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, United States consul, New Zealand, and United States commercial agent to the Fejee islands, L. Trimau Chatard, captain's clerk of the United States ship John Adams, and testified as follows: Some few days after the United States ship John Adams arrived in Rewa, Messrs. Calvert and Moore paid Captain Boutwell a visit; I was invited into the cabin by the captain; when I went into said cabin the captain and the gentlemen before mentioned were conversing on the subject of some claims which had been intrusted by Captain Magruder, of the United States ship St. Mary's, to the arbitration of Mr. Calvert and Mr. David Whippy. After I entered the cabin, the following statements, to the best of my recollection and belief, were made by the said Mr. Calvert: Captain Magruder had appointed Mr. Calvert and Mr. Whippy to decide the amount of a loss sustained by Mr. John B. Williams, on the island of Nukulan, and the amount of damages due from the natives of the Fejee islands, for the plundering of the goods of the said Mr. Williams. He said there was a claim for blankets, double-barreled fowling-pieces, and other articles. He stated there was some doubt about the existence of the fowling-pieces. Mr. Moore then said the existence of the double-barreled fowling-pieces in the possession of Mr. Williams was a matter of public notoriety in Rewa, and still spoken of by the natives. Mr. Calvert merely mentioned these things as *having been said* to have been in Mr. Williams's possession. He stated that for various reasons—which reasons he did not assign, however—he and Mr. Whippy had been prevented from meeting, and consequently arbitrating or deciding upon these claims.

Mr. Calvert then said, further, that they expected Mr. Williams to make a claim upon the Wesleyan Missionary Society for a house which had been burned in Rewa, adjoining the house of Mr. Moore, by some people of that place, for the purpose, it was thought, of destroying the adjoining house of Mr. Moore. He said, as I understood, that the matter had been referred by Mr. Williams to the government, or to the head of their society in Sydney, and they expected to pay some five or six hundred dollars. The captain asked why they should have to pay for an injury done by the Fejeeans, and if he did not think the Rewa people ought to pay both for the loss of Mr. Williams and of Mr. Moore? Mr. Calvert said yes; he thought that would be just; they still said they were willing to pay Mr. Williams's loss. That the matter had been referred to Captain Freemantle, of the "Juno," but as the "Juno" would not probably arrive for some time, he wished Captain Boutwell to take the matter in hand and decide the amount they were to pay. The captain asked if the loss would fall upon Mr. Moore individually? Mr. Calvert said no; that it would be paid from the funds of the society.

L. T. CHATARD, *Captain's Clerk.*

Examination taken, reduced to writing, and by the witness signed  
in presence of  
[L. s.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S.  
Commercial Agent at Fejee Islands.*

No. 72.

WESLEYAN MISSION HOUSE,  
*Ovalan, October 11, 1855.*

SIR: On behalf of Yago-damu, chief of Ban, (acting in the absence of Thakombau,) I have the honor to request, most respectfully, that you will be pleased to permit the claims now made on the chiefs of Ban to be decided by the arbitration of certain officers of United States ship John Adams, nominated by yourself, the said arbitrators to determine upon the claims which justly belong to Ban, and the amount of the same.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,  
JOSEPH WATERHOUSE,  
*On behalf of Yago-damu.*

Commander BOUTWELL,  
*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams.*

No. 73.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 11, 1855.*

GENTLEMEN: You are hereby directed to attend daily, Sundays excepted, in the cabin of the United States ship John Adams, to hear the testimony given in relation to the claims of American citizens, in order that you may be able to judge of the amount each claimant is entitled to according to the evidence given in each case.

The claimants are—

Mr. J. B. Williams, U. S. commercial agent, Fejee islands.

Messrs. Chamberlain & Co., Salem, Massachusetts.

Mr. David Whippy, U. S. vice-consul, Fejee islands.

Mr. J. H. Williams, U. S. consul, Sydney; or Messrs. Wilkinson & Co., Boston, merchants.

The underwriters of barque Elizabeth.

The underwriters of brig Tim Pickering.

Shattuck & McComby, who were robbed and clubbed.

John Ryder's losses at Ovalan, and who was beaten at Malackey.

Charles Rounds' losses at Cantab.

Captain Dunn's losses at Ananas.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

Lieut. L. C. SARTORI, and Acting Master OSCAR C. BADGER.

## No. 74.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 12, 1855.*

SIR: You will attend in the cabin of this ship, daily, to hear the testimony in the several cases of indemnity due American citizens for losses sustained at these islands, in order that you may assist in arriving at a just estimate of what is due them.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

Lieut. D. R. LAMBERT,  
*U. S. ship John Adams.*

## No. 75.

On this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, personally appeared before me, John B. Williams, United States consul, New Zealand, and United States commercial agent, Fejee islands, David Whippy, and did declare on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the amount of property destroyed on board and landing from the American whaling barque Elizabeth was upwards of one thousand dollars.

DAVID WHIPPY,  
*U. S. Vice Commercial Agent, Lavaka.*

Examination taken and reduced to writing, and by the witness signed in my presence.

[L. S.]

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,  
*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S.  
 Commercial Agent at Fejee islands.*

## No. 76.

On this fifteenth day of October, in the year 1855, personally appeared before me, Edward B. Boutwell, commander of the United States ship John Adams, John B. Williams, United States consul, New Zealand, and commercial agent, Fejee islands, who did declare on oath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the whaling barque Elizabeth was plundered of upwards of one thousand dollars, and that the brig Tim Pickering was reported to me by Captain Walden, master of that vessel, to be worth about four thousand five hundred dollars. The former I witnessed the plundering of by the natives of Ban, being at the time on the deck of that vessel defending her, and near where the property was taken from.

JOHN B. WILLIAMS.

Examination taken, reduced to writing, and by the witness signed in presence of

E. B. BOUTWELL, *Commander.*

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No. 77.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Ovalan, October 14, 1855.*

SIR: From the evidence we have heard, and from information collected from various sources, we are of opinion that Mr. Daniel Whippy's loss by the burning of Lavaka, and his being forced to remove from that place a few years ago, is correct at six thousand dollars; and that Messrs. Chamberlain & Co., of Salem, Massachusetts, sustained a loss of seven thousand dollars by the burning of Lavaka, and Captain Dunn of three hundred dollars by the destruction of his beche le mer house, at the island of "Ananas." We also believe that Shattuck & McComby's claim for loss of property, amounting to one thousand dollars, to be just, and that in addition to that sum they should each receive eight hundred dollars, as compensation for personal injuries sustained by them.

We are of opinion that the above amounts should be paid to the respective claimants by the parties inflicting the injuries, and that interest on these sums should be allowed to Messrs. Whippy, Chamberlain & Co., and Dunn, from the time the loss was sustained until that of settlement.

Very respectfully, &c.,

L. C. SARTORI, *Lieutenant.*

O. C. BADGER, *Acting Master.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams.*

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No. 78.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 15, 1855.*

SIR: From the evidence we have heard in the cases of the barque Elizabeth and brig Tim Pickering, for losses sustained by their owners by robbery of the natives of this island and people of Ban, we are of opinion that the amount of loss was five thousand dollars, and that a legal interest on that amount should also be added from the time the robbery was committed up to the day of settlement.

Say four thousand dollars for the "Tim Pickering," and one thousand dollars for the "Elizabeth."

Respectfully, your obedient servants,

L. C. SARTORI, *Lieutenant.*

D. R. LAMBERT, *Lieutenant.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams, Ovalan.*

No. 79.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 16, 1855.*

SIR: From evidence we have heard, and information collected from various sources, we are of opinion that Mr. J. B. Williams, United States consul, New Zealand, and commercial agent, Fejee islands, is fully entitled to the sum of seven thousand four hundred and sixty-one dollars for losses sustained by robbery and spoliation of his property at Nukulan by the natives at Fejee. This sum covers principal and interest up to this day, which we deem him fully entitled to as a small compensation for loss of time, &c. We are also of opinion that he is entitled to the sum of nine thousand eight hundred and sixty dollars, principal and interest up to this day, for loss of oil due him by Thakambau (Tui Viti) and Navende, principal chiefs of Ban, for property received by them from Mr. Williams, which was paid in oil, and of which but a small quantity was ever received by Mr. Williams; which, according to agreement, were placed at the various islands, and were destroyed by the natives. We are further of opinion that Mr. Williams's expenses to the United States and back to this place (one thousand and ten dollars) should be made good to him by the party inflicting the wrong, which obliged him to proceed to his government to seek redress. These several items produce the sum of eighteen thousand three hundred and thirty-one dollars, which we consider due him, principal and interest, up to this day; and that interest on this amount should be added from this day to the day of final payment.

Respectfully,

L. C. SARTORI, *Lieutenant.*  
 D. R. LAMBERT, *Lieutenant.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams, Ovalan.*

No. 80.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 16, 1855.*

SIR: We are of opinion, from the evidence we have heard, that Messrs. Wilkinson & Co., of Boston, sustained a loss at the island of Namuka of full (\$4,000) say four thousand dollars by the burning and destruction of his dwelling and storehouses, and the burning and robbery of a large quantity of trade by the natives of the main land, (Viti Levu.) We think interest on that amount should be paid from the day of destruction to the period of final settlement.

Respectfully, &amp;c.,

L. C. SARTORI, *Lieutenant.*  
 D. R. LAMBERT, *Lieutenant.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams, Ovalan.*

No. 81.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 16, 1855.*

SIR: We are of opinion that Charles Rounds sustained a loss of one hundred and fifty-five dollars by the robbery of his tools and other articles at Randava by the natives of that island, and also that he is entitled to interest on that amount from the time of robbery to day of settlement.

Respectfully, &c.,

L. C. SARTORI, *Lieutenant.*  
 D. R. LAMBERT, *Lieutenant.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams, Ovalan.*

No. 82.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 18, 1855.*

SIR: From the information we have just heard from Thomas Ryder, upon which we place entire confidence, and from information derived from nearly every white resident of this place, we are fully convinced that his loss by the burning of Lavaka was fifteen hundred dollars. We deem this sum, with interest from the burning to the day of settlement, should be demanded for him from the parties inflicting the wrong. We regret, however, to say, that the personal injuries he received, and the loss of property he sustained through the natives of Malaki, cannot, in our opinion, be noticed, as his own evidence goes to prove that he signed off all claims for indemnity before the captain of her Britannic Majesty's ship Herald; and while we would not attach any importance to this act before a commander of a foreign ship of war, we, in consideration of Mr. Ryder's conscientious scruples, have decided to let the matter remain at rest.

Respectfully, &c.,

L. C. SARTORI, *Lieutenant.*  
 D. R. LAMBERT, *Lieutenant.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams.*

No. 83.

LAVAKA, OVALAN, *April 14, 1855.*

SIR: We have received your letter of the 12th inst., in which you make manifest your kind feeling toward us. In the present circumstances, our position in this town compels us to confine ourselves to a



limited correspondence with you. Therefore, if you are our friends, you will keep this war far from Ovalan, or at least from Lavaka, as it would most likely involve us in it against our wishes. Rumors of long standing have made us prepare for war, greatly to our cost and trouble; and if we are attacked, we shall have to defend ourselves as far as possible. The result may have to be settled hereafter, as we have given no cause for it, but have had to put up with the loss of time and thirty or forty thousand dollars' worth of property belonging to whites of different nations residing on this island. As for Tui Leruka, if you wish to know his mind, you had better direct a letter to him personally. You make mention of the Fejees finishing the Tongas by killing them. Since my time on these islands there have been some fifty or sixty more foreigners killed; robberies and outrages out of number; and we have had to put up with it; therefore, I shall leave you to judge for yourself if we have not cause to complain. As for myself, I have written to my government, and shall continue to give them an account of affairs in the Fejees as they transpire.

Your most obedient servant,

DAVID WHIPPY,  
*U. S. Vice Consul at Ovalan.*

To GEORGE, *King of Tonga.*

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No. 84.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 18, 1855.*

SIR: We have received your communication of this date, requesting our views as to who should be held responsible for the various outrages proved as having been committed on American citizens and property by the natives of the Fejee islands. Having carefully compared your letter with the testimony we have had laid before us, both written and otherwise, (when examining these claims,) we are firmly convinced that your views as expressed in the letter referred to are correct, and, we do not hesitate to say, in exact accordance with our own.

We therefore deem it unnecessary to go into any lengthy discussion on the subject.

We are, respectfully, your obedient servants,

L. C. SARTORI, *Lieutenant.*

D. R. LAMBERT, *Lieutenant.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,

*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams, Ovalan.*

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No. 85.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 11, 1855.*

SIR: Your letter of this date has been received, and I have to inform you that the claim of thirty thousand dollars has been made on

the king of Fejee, who is at war with his neighbors, and who, with the assistance of King George, keeps these islands in an unsettled state, and prevents the natives from working. I have sent to him to appear on board this ship on the 16th instant, when he can answer for himself. He will be allowed counsel. I cannot have any settlement with an inferior chief, whose actions may not be sanctioned by his master.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

Rev. JOSEPH WATERHOUSE,  
*Missionary at Ban, Fejee.*

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No. 86.

LAVAKA, OVALAN, *October 10, 1855.*

I, Tui Levuka, chief of Lavaka, pledge myself to pay, in ten months, to David Whippy, all claims made on me by Commander Boutwell; to treat all Americans well, respect the missionaries of all countries, and persecute none. I also promise to place no obstacles in the way of my people becoming Christians, to make peace with all nations, and to request the Tonga chief to return home with his people. I also promise to club no more men, except for the following offences, viz: murder, arson, cannibalism, and rape. I further promise to punish all minor offences by hard labor on the adjoining islands in collecting beche de mer, shell, gum, &c., to be appropriated to the paying of all debts due American citizens, and for such other purposes as may hereafter be designated by me. I also promise, if any American vessel be cast away on this island, or any other under my control, to protect the property for the owners, and save the crew. In all matters of importance, I will consult and take the advice of Mr. Whippy, and regard him as my friend. In cases where American, English, and French citizens are concerned, the consuls or representatives of those countries shall be permitted to act as counsel, and see that justice is meted out to their countrymen.

his  
TUI × LEVUKA.  
mark

Witnesses:

J. B. WILLIAMS,  
DAVID WHIPPY.

L. C. SARTORI,  
*Lieutenant U. S. Navy.*

No. 87.

U. S. VICE COMMERCIAL AGENCY,  
*Lavaka, Ovalan, October, 19, 1855.*

SIR: I was called on board the U. S. ship *St. Mary's*, and while there the English missionaries were on board, conversing with Commander Bailey. The clerk addressed me as follows: The natives ought to have some one to act for them—one of the missionaries; what do you think of it? I replied, I thought Captain Boutwell would hear both sides—I don't think he will do any other way. It will be right and just to hear both sides. I am at a loss to know what British subjects have to do with American claims here.

Your obedient servant,

DAVID WHIPPY,  
*U. S. Vice Commercial Agent, Lavaka.*

Commander BOUTWELL,  
*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams, Ovalan.*

No. 88.

VEWA, FEJEE, *October 9, 1855.*

SIR: With great pleasure I hail your arrival in Fejee, which I deem most opportune at this time, as intricate affairs are now pending between Ban and J. B. Williams, esq., U. S. consul. Having been requested by G. A. Magruder, esq., to arbitrate, in connexion with Mr. Whippy, respecting claims said to be due to J. B. Williams, esq., and having with reluctance, (after objecting to do so,) undertaken to do what I could in the complicated matters, I thought it right to report what had been done in the affairs of Mr. Williams and E. B. Boutwell, esq., commanding U. S. ship *John Adams*. In reply, I have been favored with two letters, one from Commander Boutwell, and one from Mr. Williams, who complain that my letter was "uncalled for," &c. A copy of my letters to Commander Boutwell, with the replies thereto, I intrust to Mr. Waterhouse, begging that you will peruse and consider the same, as I think it unfair that my interference in this matter should be represented to the United States government as "presumptuous," after I had been requested to do so by a naval officer in the United States service.

Herewith I beg to enclose you a copy of a letter addressed to the honorable the Secretary of State of the United States of America, respecting a levy which Mr. Whippy and I, after due deliberation, in pursuance of Captain Magruder's request, conjointly made as being the only claim we could fairly make out for depredations on the property of the "*Elizabeth*."

I forward this by the Rev. Joseph Waterhouse, who has been the honored instrument of bringing about a great change on the island

of Ban, where he now resides. He was at Lavaka at the time it was burnt, by some person or party unknown as yet.

I am shocked to find that Commander Boutwell attributes the base act to a native teacher, writing: "I am satisfied in my own mind that the native teacher set fire to the town of Lavaka." This is indeed a most grave implication, and I hope Mr. Waterhouse will have the opportunity of proving it without foundation.

Hoping that these matters may now at length be fully investigated and properly settled, so that Fejee, after its wars, heathenism, and cannibalism, may begin afresh on better principles, and become enlightened, honorable and religious,

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

JAMES CALVERT.

Captain BAILEY,  
*U. S. ship St. Mary's.*

P. S.—A visit from yourself, with any of the gentlemen on board, will afford us great pleasure.

A true copy:

T. BAILEY.

Mr. Whippy has sworn that the statement of the Rev. James Calvert is untrue, and I have yet to learn what, if any right, the appointment of the Rev. James Calvert as arbitrator in Fejee, or that of American consul bestowed on the Rev. Mr. Pritchard at Upolu, has to control me in the prosecution of American claims. It does not follow as a matter of course, that because Commander Magruder thought proper to appoint an English missionary to decide on American claims at Fejee, and he (or some other officer) to appoint an English missionary to act as American consul at Apia, that they should be forever continued in their offices.

E. B. BOUTWELL.

*Commander.*

No. 89.

LAVAKA, OVALAN, *October 19, 1855.*

SIR: In a letter addressed to Commander Bailey from the Rev. Mr. Calvert, he states as follows, viz: "Herewith I beg to enclose to you a copy of a letter addressed to the honorable the Secretary of State of the United States of America, respecting a levy which Mr. Whippy and I, after due deliberation, in pursuance of Captain Magruder's request, conjointly made, as being the only claim we could fairly make out for depredations on the property of the Elizabeth." I do most positively declare that this assertion of the reverend gentleman is untrue. I never signed a letter to the Secretary of State of the United States, nor authorized the reverend gentleman to do so for me, rela-

ting to a levy or award said to have been made in the case of the barque Elizabeth.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

DAVID WHIPPY;

*U. S. Vice Commercial Agent.*

Commander BOUTWELL,

*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams.*

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No. 90.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,

*Lavaka, Ovalan, October 18, 1855.*

GENTLEMEN: You are required to give me your opinion, in writing, as to the proper person to see the amounts of money paid, which have been found due to American citizens for the losses they have sustained in the Fejee islands, and particularly those of Ban, Ovalan, Vewa, and the district of Rewa. In arriving at your conclusions, you must take into consideration the fact, that Commanders Petigru and Magruder, after a careful investigation, (I presume,) held Tui Viti responsible for the amount the board of arbitration might find due to American citizens; and the most of those claims are the same as those you have been investigating. You must also bear in mind that much of the evidence given in regard to these claims, and the burning of Lavaka, by which much of this property was destroyed, goes to establish the fact that Tui Viti ordered or encouraged the natives in these lawless acts. You must also bear in mind that the commander of her Britannic Majesty's ship Herald treated Tui Viti as a king, and would have received these islands from him if he had consented to cede them to England; and in that case the demands would have been made on the British government, and not on the subordinate chiefs of Fejee. You will further bear in mind, that the chief of Tonga, with his four thousand warriors, who lived on these people for some time, and impoverished them, came here at the invitation of Tui Viti to assist the latter to keep these islands in subjection, and against the wishes of the people. If I mistake not, you have had evidence enough since our arrival in this group (independent of the written testimony) to satisfy your minds of the fact, that the inferior chiefs of Fejee, and people, are afraid to labor or collect beche le mer and other articles of trade on the adjoining islands, without the leave or authority of Tui Viti; and, of course, would be unable to meet the demands that might be made on them for indemnity for losses sustained by our countrymen. The same testimony that proves the robbery on the island of Namuka, and clubbing of Shattuck and McComby, proves, also, that the order to commit these outrages went from Ban in the shape of a whale's tooth. It is my opinion that the people of Vewa should be made to pay for the loss of the property at Lavaka, for they burnt the town. The Lascu men, and other Ban men, should pay for the property taken from the barque Elizabeth, and a portion of that taken from the brig Tim Pickering, and the loss of

Mr. Williams's property at Nukulan. The Suva and Lassalassa people should pay for the loss of Wilkinson & Co.'s property at Namuka, and for the clubbing of the two men.

These payments, however, should be made through the chief of Ban; and he, as the head and greatest offender, should be held responsible to the government of the United States. If these views should differ from your own, you will state at length your reasons for the conclusions you may arrive at.

Respectfully yours, &c.,

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

Lieuts. SARTORI and LAMBERT,  
*U. S. ship John Adams.*

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No. 91.

I, Tui Viti, and chief of Ban, promise to pay John B. Williams, United States commercial agent, in twelve months from this date, with interest, fifteen thousand dollars, in the products of the Feejee islands, for the destruction of American property, and being the amount demanded of me by Commander Boutwell, commanding U.S. ship John Adams. I likewise pledge myself hereafter to treat all Americans with justice and kindness; to protect them and their property when they come to, or are cast away on these islands, and to punish all who maltreat them, unless there be a man-of-war present; in that case the criminal shall be given up to the commander, if she be an American. In the absence of an American man-of-war, the American consul shall be consulted, in all cases where Americans are interested. I do further promise to abolish the punishment of death, except for the following offences: Murder, arson, cannibalism, and rape, which must be proved to the satisfaction of three impartial judges; all minor offences shall be punished by hard labor. I further promise to respect the missionaries of all countries, and to persecute none. I will place no obstacles in the way of my people becoming Christians; but, on the contrary, will encourage them to become so. I promise to make peace with all nations, and never to invite the Tonga people to interfere in the affairs of these islands again. I promise to send Philip's son, the young chief of Rewa, home without delay. I give my free consent to all the chiefs who have been forced to leave Ban, to return without delay to their homes. In paying the debts due to citizens of the United States, I will furnish to the commercial agent, J. B. Williams, esq., beche le mer at fifteen dollars per picul of 140 pounds; gum, five dollars per picul; cocoanut oil, seventy-five dollars to the tun; and other articles, the products of these islands, at the prevailing prices. If, at the end of the period named to pay all American claims, they should not be settled to the satisfaction of the American commercial agent, I promise, on the arrival of a ship of war belonging to that nation, to resign the government of Ban, and go voluntarily on board that ship and submit



to any punishment which it may be the pleasure of her commander to inflict. In addition to the demand made on me by Commander Boutwell, I further pledge myself to pay into the hands of the United States commercial agent, for American citizens, a further sum of fifteen thousand dollars; the latter sum to be paid in eighteen months from the day of signing this paper. And I further declare that, if these islands are taken possession of by either England or France, within this period, I will demand of the nation taking possession the payment of all claims now acknowledged by me to be due from Fejee to American citizens. I wish, however, to have it distinctly understood that, in signing this paper, I do not assent to or express any wish to cede these islands to any nation whatever. I have further promised to pay the sum of fifteen thousand dollars in two years from this date, and I will endeavor to collect seven thousand dollars of the amount from the Rewa district. If they refuse to pay this amount in one year from this date, I will report the thing to the commander of the first American man-of-war that arrives at these islands.

Making in all forty-five thousand dollars.

The town of Suva and the district of Sularia to pay six thousand six hundred dollars of this amount.

VUNIVALU, <sup>his</sup> + or TUI VITI.  
mark.

Witnesses to signature :

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,

DAVID WHIPPY,

JOHN B. MACOMBER.

On board United States ship John Adams, Lavaka, Ovalan, Fejee islands, October 23, 1855.

E. B. BOUTWELL,  
*Commander.*

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No. 92.

VEWA, FEJEE, *September 29, 1855.*

HONORABLE SIR: Captain Magruder, in a letter addressed to me on his visit to Fejee in the United States sloop of war the St. Mary's, in July, 1851, requested me, conjointly with Mr. Whippy, to ascertain particulars of the depredations committed on the articles rescued when the whaler Elizabeth was burnt at Ovalan, and to levy any fine we considered right and proper on any of the natives who had stolen such articles.

Mr. Whippy and I met together some time after the St. Mary's departure. We found that the Lasakanans, fishermen of Ban, had stolen hoop-iron and other things from or belonging to the Elizabeth, and it appeared to us right that they should pay twenty-five piculs of beche le mer, which, agreeable with Captain Magruder's request, we

required Koli Visa Waga-ga, the chief of the said fishermen, to collect and cure and deliver to Mr. Whippy, which levy has not yet been attended to.

Respecting the property (about which Captain Magruder requested Mr. Whippy and me to arbitrate) said to be stolen by the natives from J. B. Williams, esq., amounting to \$5,001 38, I have written to Captain Boutwell and have shown to him that what is really due for goods stolen at Nukulan, an island in the Rewa dominions, cannot be justly claimed of the Ban chief.

I enclose to Captain Boutwell a copy of this letter, and suggest to him that he enforce the fine levied on the fishermen, which would doubtless procure the prompt payment, and prove a valuable lesson and warning to the Fejeeans, who have hitherto been too regardless of right.

I have the honor to be, honorable sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES CALVERT,  
*Wesleyan Missionary.*

Honorable SECRETARY OF STATE,  
*Washington, D. C.*

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No. 93.

U. S. COMMERCIAL AGENCY,  
*Lanthala, Rewa, Fejee Islands, November 2, 1855.*

SIR: I take occasion to say that if the "John Adams" had sailed from these islands without satisfaction being obtained, and justice done upon these natives, the consequences would have been, our citizens would have been exposed to greater acts of violence and robbery, (for what you have already heard must astonish you, and call forth your merited indignation,) and the commerce of our merchants must have retired from this group. It would be tedious for me to enter into the full details of the painful and revolting acts committed upon American citizens in this Archipelago. The recent attempt at murder at Vutia, and the gross insult to me from those people threatening my life, deserved merited punishment. And I do consider, if the ship of war had sailed from these islands without doing ample justice to the citizens of the United States, that the lives and property of our countrymen, and the shipping belonging to that nation, would have been unsafe, and I would have considered that I had no power to protect them unless protected by the ships of war belonging to my country; I must therefore state I have a paramount duty to perform to my country, and I feel I should ill perform that solemn duty if I had not demanded justice.

In conclusion, sir, receive my warmest thanks for your kindness in demanding and receiving satisfaction and promises by signing documents to pay, at certain periods, the claimants' just dues. The recent chastisement at Lassalassa and Navoa for the plunder of American

property, and clubbing two of its citizens, I sincerely believe will have the desired effect.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,

*U. S. Consul, New Zealand, and U. S. Commercial Agent,  
Fees Islands.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,

*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams.*

No. 94.

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,

*Suva Bay, October 31, 1855.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to your order of the 28th instant, I left the ship on that afternoon in the launch for the town of Vutia, with two officers and twenty men, armed with the brass piece, the men having, besides, their small-arms.

We were accompanied by Mr. J. B. Williams, United States commercial agent, and a North American Seminole Indian, who acted as a pilot.

We reached Vutia early on the morning of the 29th, and made fast alongside the bank, in front of the town, within twenty yards of the houses. A native messenger was immediately despatched for the chief, and for the person who had threatened the life of Mr. Williams. The messenger did not return, but a few minutes afterwards a man, said to be an under-chief, approached the boat, and stated that the chief, with the other men we were in search of, had gone to Rewa.

Believing this to be an evasion, and some of the natives appearing armed with muskets, with motions indicative of hostility, it was thought best not to delay, but to immediately carry out your instructions for burning the town, in the event of not getting the men alluded to. The chief who had come to the boat was taken prisoner and put in irons, and the town's people warned that we were about to fire or "make war," so that, agreeable to your instructions, no innocent persons might lose their lives.

The people took to flight, with the exception of a few men, who took cover behind some trees and fences. We then opened fire with shrapnell and grape, and, after two discharges, one-half of our force jumped ashore and fired the place, which was soon reduced to ashes. The natives opened a brisk fire upon the boat and the party on shore, which was rapidly returned by our men, both with the gun and musketry, which soon put them to flight.

Our work was now complete at this place, and we hauled off preparatory to attacking the upper town belonging to the same people, which is about one-third of a mile further up the river. While making preparations, a number of natives appeared on the bank waving a flag of truce. We pulled in and found they had come with propositions of peace, being much humbled, and ready to come to any terms

in order to save the upper town; and confessing their inability to contend with the white man. They were told to go back, collect their chiefs and people, and if they agreed to submit and beg pardon, according to their customs, we would hear what they had to say; and in the mean time they must not fire on us, nor should we on them.

While waiting for their answer within musket-shot of the town, the gun was landed and put on the wheels, the boat secured in a safe position, and the men drawn up in a line of attack within musket-shot of the town. The natives soon returned with the tokens of submission usual with them, and solemnly agreed to let Mr. Williams dwell in peace on his land near them, and not to molest him, or any other white man; they also agreed, as a further atonement, to plant his yams for him the ensuing year; also to deliver up the man as soon as he could be caught, as a guarantee to these terms. Matedfanova, a Rewa chief, agreed to hold himself responsible that they should be carried out. I had no instructions for such a case as this; but believing the natives sincere, and really humbled, and that any further punishment at this time would be injudicious—for it is important to impress them with an idea of the justice and mercy of the white man, as well as of his power—on consulting with Mr. Williams, who perfectly coincided with me in opinion, I agreed to accept their terms. We then marched into their town, stacked our arms in the square, and to show them that we had confidence in their keeping the compact, as well as no fear of them, left but two sentries in charge of the arms, and all entered the chief's house, a short distance off. They furnished us with cocoanuts, and afterwards a speech was interpreted to them in a very impressive manner by the Indian, in which they were told that they had now seen what white men can do; that with twenty-three men they confessed themselves conquered, where they professed to have several hundred fighting men, and therefore, since they saw their weakness, they should never think of meddling with us; that our country had numerous ships, and plenty of men, and that if a dozen ships' crews were lost here, it was nothing to our "big chief," who could replace them in a day; that the American people were glad to hear that they had embraced Christianity; that no injustice would be allowed to be done them by any of our people; that we had bad people amongst us as well as themselves, but that they must report their grievances to the consul, or to a man-of-war, and not take the punishment of any white man into their own hands. They assented to all this; the prisoner before alluded to was released to them; the conference broke up, and we returned to the ship. The natives confess to a loss of one killed and six wounded. I am happy to state that not one of our party was struck.

Passed Midshipman Baker, and the gunner, (Mr. Hatch) the officers with me, behaved in a cool and gallant manner, and carried out strictly every order given them. The crew acted well, and were only too eager to get at the enemy, in some instances exposing themselves unnecessarily. Our Indian pilot was of great service, not only as a pilot and interpreter, but he took a forward part in burning the town. He is a very brave man, and in the excitement of a fight, shows very clearly what kind of blood flows in his veins.

I beg leave to state, that in making terms with these people without instructions, I did what I thought best for the interests of Mr. Williams and the whites, and hope it may meet with your approbation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. C. BADGER, *Acting Master.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,

*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams.*

No. 95.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,

*Suva, Fejee, October 27, 1855.*

SIR: I obedience to your order of yesterday, I took charge of the 2d and 3d batteries, fully manned and armed, assisted by purser Myers, passed midshipman Eggleston, and Mr. Chatard, and proceeded in the boats with our guide up the river Naikorokoro, as far as the commencement of the pathway leading to the town of Namula. There landed the party, leaving four men to protect the boats, and advanced upon Namula, which is situated upon the top of a hill, and approached only by a narrow, rugged, and difficult path.

We succeeded in reaching the town without being discovered, and our first object being to secure the chief Te Sulear, I gave directions to guard every house as we passed on into the town, and to suffer no one to come out. I was in hopes of reaching the chief's residence in season to secure his person, but unfortunately his house was on the top of the hill, and the noise raised in the first house alarmed the town, and in an instant the place was deserted.

The darkness of the night, our want of a proper guide, (the one we had being unable to conduct us,) and not one of the party having the slightest knowledge of this place, rendered the escape of the chief an easy matter.

As we passed through the town the guard fired at two men who effected their escape from the houses situated at the entrance of the town, leaving a woman and two children behind them.

I caused every house to be searched, and not finding a man I released the woman with her two children, and directed them to go to the chief and say, that if he did not return within a half hour I would burn the town. We remained up to the time specified, and not hearing from any one I ordered, with the advice of the officers with me, and in obedience to my instructions, the town to be fired. I then withdrew my party with as little delay as possible, dropped down the river, and on our return to the ship touched at Lassalassa, another town belonging to Te Sulear, and left directions for the chief to repair on board the ship in the morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. F. SHATTUCK,

*Lieutenant and Executive officer.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,

*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams.*



No. 96.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Suva Bay, (Viti Levu,) October 31, 1855.*

SIR: In obedience to your order of 29th instant, "to proceed with the launch and 1st cutter to the town of Navua, and invite the chief Koroduadua to visit the ship; in the event of his refusing to come, to fire the town, and if molested by the other towns on the river to fire them also," I proceeded on the morning of the 30th to that town, accompanied by passed midshipman Baker, purser Myers, boatswain Leech, gunner Hatch, and Mr. Chatard, captain's clerk. The boats were fully manned, and twelve marines accompanied the party. We arrived about noon, and I immediately sent off a native (whom I had taken from a canoe on my way up the river) to say to the chief of the town that I wished to see him at once. In his absence I landed and formed the men, dividing them in sections under the charge of the different officers, ready to march to any point deemed necessary. The boats I left in charge of gunner Hatch, with a small party to work and land the gun if wanted. In a few moments the messenger returned, stating that the chief was in the field planting and had been sent for. I despatched him again, as also two other natives, to bid the chief to come at once. They had hardly left me when the drums calling their people to arms commenced beating at the upper end of the town. At once I ordered off the different sections to take command of the most important points, and marched with a party to the house of the chief, which I surrounded, but allowed two women, the only occupants, to leave. All this time the drums were beating, and Mr. Baker, from his position, sent me word that a number of natives were running to the bushes at the back of the town with their arms, and fires were being lighted on several eminences, (as signals to call the natives of the mountains to arms.) Still, as I wished to give the chief ample time to obey my summons, I directed not a shot to be fired or a house burnt without positive orders from me, except the natives commenced the firing first, or were aiming at our party. In the event of setting fire to houses, I directed every care taken that no women or children were in them. We had been now about twenty minutes on shore, and meeting another native I called out to him, through the interpreter, to tell the chief to come at once, or I should fire the town. He had scarce left when several shots were fired at my own party formed in front of the chief's house. I then called out to the different officers commanding sections to fire all the houses in their part of the town, and return to the bank overlooking the boats. The work was soon done, under a constant fire from the natives, from behind trees and the deep swamp surrounding the town; our parties keeping up a brisk fire upon every point. When the town was completely burned we quietly embarked and pulled down the river. As we approached the second town, (Naiouravurai,) I directed no shot to be fired without we were fired upon. As we came abreast of it a shot was fired at my boat, when I gave orders to land half of each boat's crew and fire the place, which was immediately done, under a



sharp fire from the bushes, which our men on shore and in the boats returned in the most spirited manner. As the firing from the enemy ceased we embarked; the 1st cutter's crew was collected first, and shoved off under the protection of my men, who were still posted on the bank, and while embarking I directed Mr. Baker in the 1st cutter to pull from the shore and look out upon both banks until we had shoved off, as we had slightly grounded.

We were just getting way upon the launch, and was about twenty yards in the rear of the 1st cutter, when a volley of perhaps a dozen shots was fired in the latter, which was at once returned; several shots also struck the launch; the field-piece was brought to bear and fired. Both boats kept up a sharp fire at every flash from the bushes, and at every native that could be seen. In a few moments Mr. Baker, in the 1st cutter, reported three men wounded, one he feared fatally. We continued down the river, being entirely unmolested while passing the third and last town, where, had the enemy not been subdued, we should have again been attacked, (as the position was a very strong one;) but finding the place to all appearance deserted, I deemed it unnecessary to fire it, and we sailed out of the river to an anchorage for the night, where we came to at 8 o'clock, being among shoals and still twelve miles from the ship. With a head wind I got under way early this morning, and now report my return to the ship, and am grieved to say that Charles Lockwood, one of the wounded in the 1st cutter, died almost immediately, having been shot through the neck while pulling at his oar; the two others were but slightly wounded. The enemy must have met with considerable loss. The officers and men of the expedition behaved with the utmost coolness and promptitude.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. C. SARTORI, *Lieutenant.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,

*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams.*

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No. 97.

UNITED STATES SHIP JOHN ADAMS,  
*Suva Roads, October 30, 1855.*

SIR: In obedience to your order of this date, I left the ship at 9 a. m. in command of a detachment of seamen and marines, accompanied by passed midshipman Eggleston and sailmaker Mahoney, and proceeded to burn the town of Lassalassa, about three miles distant. The tide not permitting the boats to approach nearer than seventy-five yards to the landing, we disembarked in good order, leaving them in charge of Mr. Mahoney, with a party well armed for their protection. After forming the detachment on the beach we advanced towards the town, nearly a mile distant, through a thick jungle. On approaching within a short distance I found it to be strongly protected by a high stockade and deep ravine, the principal entrance narrow and strongly barricaded. On observing a large number of natives near

the entrances prepared to defend it, having fire-arms, and being the first to fire, I directed a volley to be returned by the first division, and to advance. The detachment soon forced an entrance, and keeping up a sharp fire, drove the natives of the town into the jungle, where they kept up an occasional firing, but so badly directed that we had but one wounded—Charles Beck, seaman—and, I regret to state, severely.

Having possession, I directed the place to be burnt. On our return to the landing, I found acting master —— had arrived with a reinforcement in the fourth cutter, with information that an attack would be made on the boats. Several musket-shots were fired by the natives; but being promptly returned, no other attempt was made. Our loss is not so great as might have been expected from the commanding position occupied by the natives, the jungle affording them every protection.

Having fully carried out your instructions, we returned to the ship at 1 p. m.

I cannot conclude without bearing testimony to the gallantry of the officers, seamen, and marines engaged in this expedition, and for their prompt obedience to all orders.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

D. R. LAMBERT,

*Lieutenant Commanding Expedition.*

Commander E. B. BOUTWELL,

*Commanding U. S. ship John Adams.*